リョウ
Ryo
2
No.7
青木ヶ原樹海
Aokigahara Jukai
国道
139
ROUTE
UEDA Rinko

The suspect's car has broken through the checkpoint on Route 139!
A white car was left outside the entrance of Aokigahara Forest at the foot of Mt. Fuji!
The police teams have headed into the mountain to search!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? BENKEI...
LET'S REST FOR A BIT.
WE'D BETTER CHANGE THE BANDAGES...
TELL US, BENKEI,
HOW CAN WE FIND THE PLACE THAT WILL TAKE US BACK TO THE HEIAN ERA IN THIS HUMONGOUS FOREST?
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GO BACK TO WHERE BENKEI FIRST CAME TO THIS ERA. MAYBE WE'LL FIND SOME CLUES.
IT SHOULD BE JUST A BIT FARTHER AHEAD.
EVERYTHING LOOKS THE SAME AND THERE ARE NO MARKINGS. HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE WAY?
AOI...
YOU SHOULD GO BACK.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! DIDN'T I SAY I'D GO WITH YOU!
BUT WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK ALIVE!
YOU BELONG HERE.
I CAN'T DO THIS TO YOUR PARENTS.
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED!
I'LL LIVE ON WITH RYO.
NO MATTER WHERE, NO MATTER WHEN

AOI...
I'M ADOPTED.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT THEIR KID.
HUH..
I WAS ADOPTED WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.
I ONLY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT AFTER ENTERING HIGH-SCHOOL...
SO I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL
WHEN YOU FOUND OUT THE TRUTH...
THE LONELINESS AND CONFUSION YOU FEEL WHEN YOU FIND OUT YOU AND PEOPLE AROUND YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED

I REALLY WANT TO KNOW
RYO... WHAT KIND OF PERSON USHIWAKA-MARU IS.
YOU WANT TO KNOW TOO, RIGHT?
RUSH
!!
THE POLICE?
IT CAN'T BE. THEY CAN'T HAVE CAUGHT UP SO FAST.
IT MAY BE WOLVES.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. JAPAN'S WILD WOLVES ARE EXTINCT.
REALLY?
MAYBE IT'S WILD DOGS?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS, THAT SOUND GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE

Ryo ②
Sniff Sniff
Bark Bark
Woof Woof
THEY'RE CLOSE.
HEY!
HEY! WAIT!
Grr
Jump
HUH...

I'M SURE IT'S HERE!
ARE YOU SURE? BENKEI?
IT'S HERE.
THIS PLACE HAS THE MARKINGS FROM MY KATANA FROM WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS TIME.
BUT THERE IS NO RAVINE OR CAVE OPENING, HOW DO WE GO BACK FROM HERE?
BENKEI!
IS THIS IT?
A RAVINE.
MUST'VE BEEN CAUSED BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

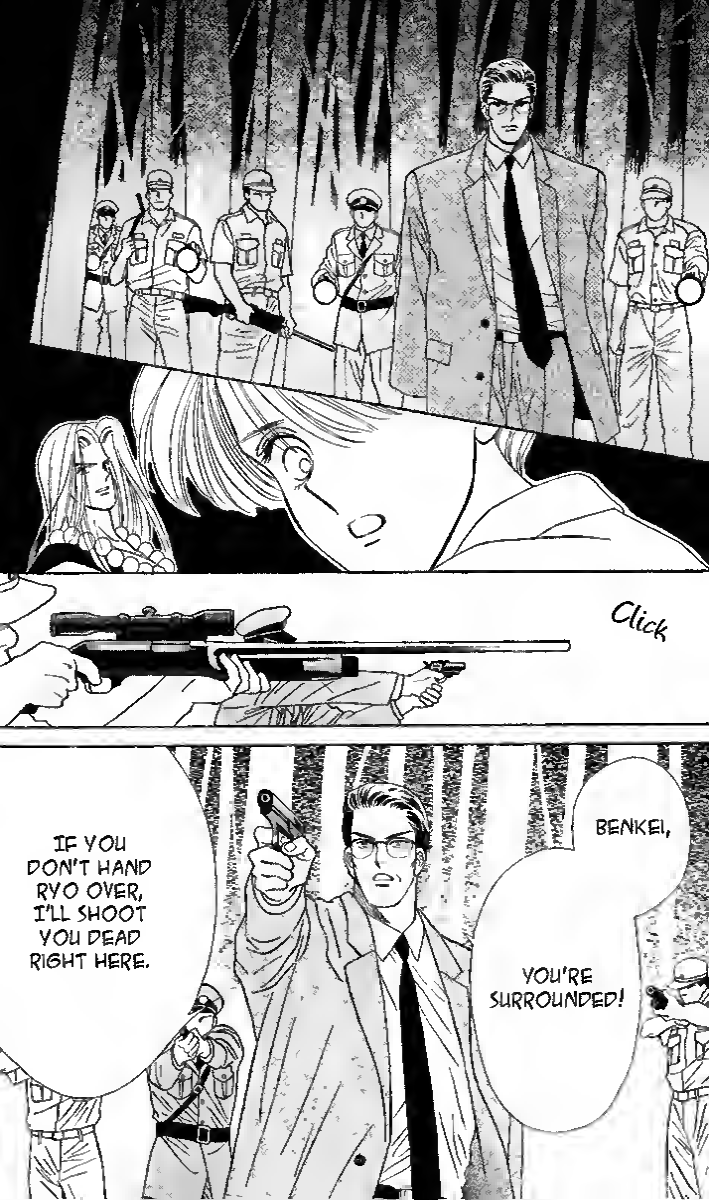
ARE WE GOING, RYO-DONO?
IT LOOKS BOTTOM-LESS..
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR SURE WE CAN'T JUST GO AND JUMP!
GO...
*Kamikakushi = Spirited away
BUT, THIS LOOKS AS DEEP AS THE KAMIKAKUSHI RAVINE.
JUMP FROM HERE.?
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT IT'S THE SAME!
NO...I
I'M AFRAID TO JUMP..!!
ヒョオオオ

AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
THERE'S NO MORE TIME, YOSHITSUNE-HAN.
LET'S FIND ANOTHER WAY...
IT'S SUICIDE!
YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO JUMP?
ME TOO.
AS LONG AS IT'S THE ROAD RYO-DONO CHOOSES, I WILL FOLLOW.
AS LONG AS BENKEI IS THERE, COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, I'LL GO TOO.
STOP IT!
I DON'T WANT THAT KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY!
WE COULD ALL DIE!

RYO-
DONO!
KIYAAA

A WOLF!
HOW CAN THAT BE...
TWIST

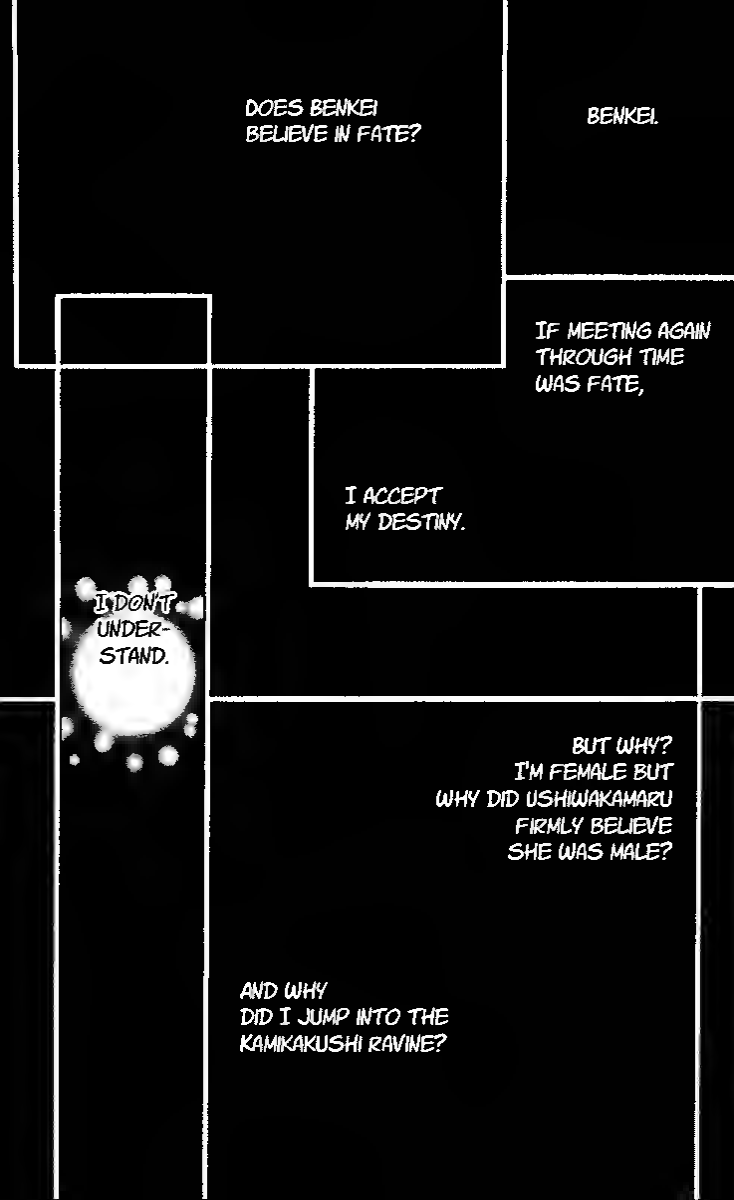
SWISH
GRAB
WAIT BENKEI!!
NO, IT JUMPED!!
DID IT FALL?!
STEP
AAH!
DON'T MOVE!!


Click
BENKEI,
YOU'RE SURROUNDED!
IF YOU DON'T HAND RYO OVER, I'LL SHOOT YOU DEAD RIGHT HERE.

PAPA, STOP!
NO, BENKEI!
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST HIS GUN!
GRANDPA AND MAMA ARE WORRIED
COME OVER HERE RYO!
COME, RYO...

RYO-DONO...
ALL THE GUNS ARE AIMED AT BENKEI'S HEAD.
WE'LL REALLY OPEN TO FIRE
NO!!
MOVE, RYO...!!
LET'S GO, BENKEI.
UH...

RYO!
JUMP
WAIT FOR ME, BENKEI!
ME.. ME TOO!


DOES BENKEI BELIEVE IN FATE?
BENKEI.
IF MEETING AGAIN THROUGH TIME WAS FATE,
I ACCEPT MY DESTINY.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
BUT WHY? I'M FEMALE BUT WHY DID USHIWAKAMARU FIRMLY BELIEVE SHE WAS MALE?
AND WHY DID I JUMP INTO THE KAMIKAKUSHI RAVINE?

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I'M SO CONFUSED.

SO I MUST SEARCH...

SEARCH FOR THE REAL ME...

Scans: Ink
Translation: Panda-CAT & help from Silent Bob
Editing: Technu & Ink
Proofreading: Yume

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MARGARET COMICS

リョウ
Ryo

2

上田倫子

MARGARET

Ryo

2

UEDA Rinko

2489☆
集英社

Commentary

Finally the stage has switched to Heian-jidai and Ryo's genuine adventure has begun.
At first look, it may seem like a historic manga but in this story, I want to mainly write about a modern day girl's thoughts and growth.
(Or else it will be hard to write)
I don't want to pay too much attention to the actual historical events (in the student days, I wasn't very good at history ←excuse) and keep on writing like mad ←Suddenly in peaceful mind

LOVE
M C
9604

Comics by Uedo Rinko

Button of Tears For You
Counting the Same Dream
Prism Is the Lover *2 Volumes*
Do the Kiss On My Eyes *10 Volumes*
<New>School Heaven *7 Volumes*
Ryo ①~②

WHO..?
RYO
RYO
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?!
REMEMBER
REMEMBER THE REAL YOU
DON'T GO
SHOW ME THE WAY...
REMEMBER
DON'T LEAVE!
REMEMBER
MY CHILD...

リョウ
Ryo
No.8

Translation: Panda-CAT & big help from Janice!
Scans & editing: Ink
Proofreading: ConwayT

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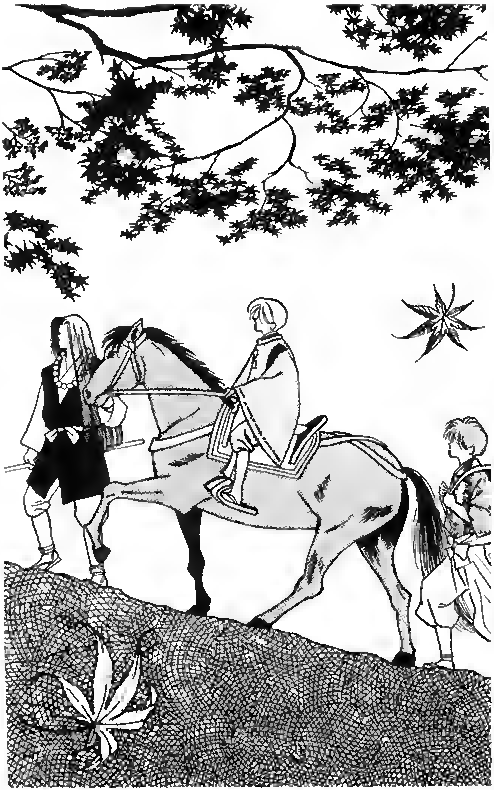


DON'T GO!!
A DREAM...
YOU'VE AWOKEN?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
USHI-WAKA...?
THIS MAN KNOWS ME...?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN THREE YEARS AND THEN I FIND YOU UNCONSCIOUS ON THE ROADSIDE WEARING STRANGE CLOTHING...
WHO?!
!?

*Angen era = 1175-1176
ANGEN SECOND YEAR...
USHI-WAKA!!
THIS PLACE...
HUH...
WHAT ERA IS IT NOW?
WHAT ERA IS IT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

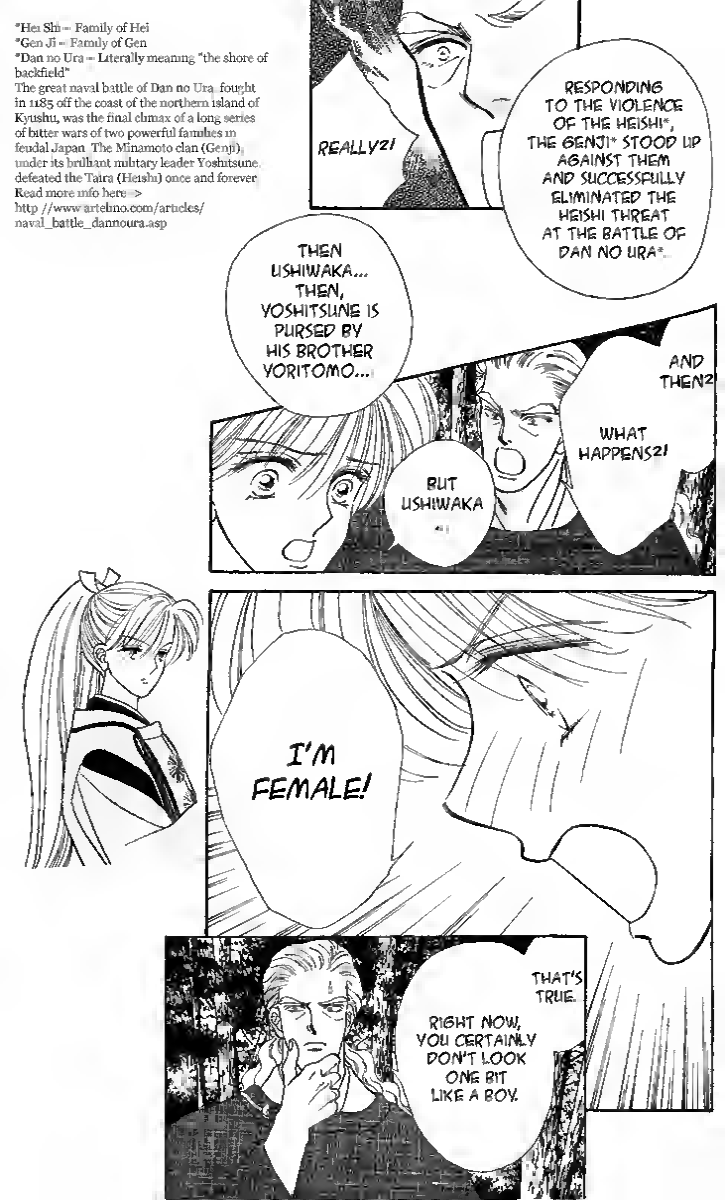
HEIAN...
THIS IS HEIAN CITY
USHIWAKA?
AND BENKEI ?
BENKEI?
WHERE IS BENKEI?!
WHAT ABOUT THAT WILD MONK?
HE CAME WITH ME!
OJI-SAN ...
HE CAME WITH ME FROM MT. FUJI!!
..YOU ...
CALM DOWN, USHIWAKA..
HOW DO YOU KNOW ME..?
OH NO, BROTHER!!

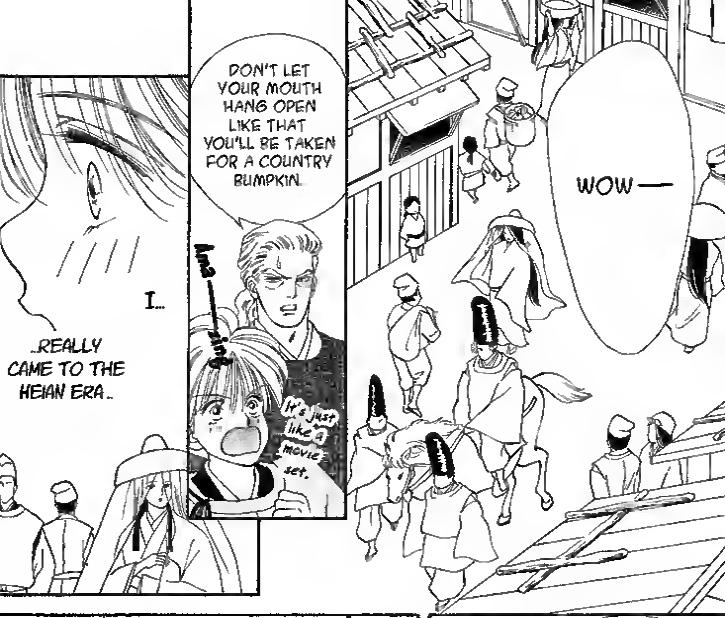
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT'S SAID THAT HE IS IN THE CAPITAL CITY..!
BENKEI...
WHAT IS IT, KISANTA?
BENKEI, HE...
WHERE DID YOU SEE BENKEI?
WHERE?
IM-POSSIBLE!
NO... I DIDN'T SEE HIM WITH MY OWN EYES. I HEARD IT..
THAT WILD MONK WOULDN'T SERVE A CHILD LIKE YOU.
IT'S TRUE!!
USHIWAKA, WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT BENKEI?
BECAUSE BENKEI IS MY VASSAL!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
HE ROBS PEOPLE OF THEIR SWORDS, CHEATS HONORABLE WOMEN,
AND HE EVEN SET FIRE TO THE CITY TEMPLE. EVERYONE DESPISES HIM...

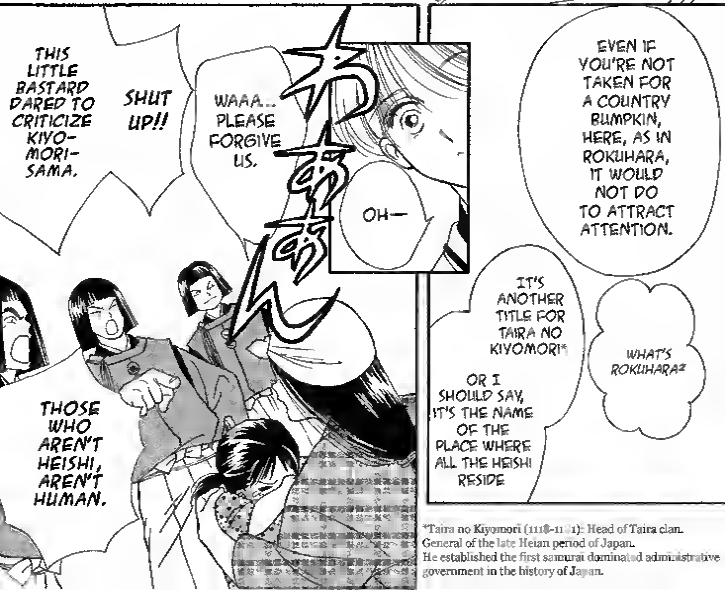
BENKEI'S NOT LIKE THAT NOW!
HE'S GENTLE AND STRONG.
HE'S AN IMPORTANT SOMEONE WHO USES HIS LIFE TO PROTECT ME!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? USHIWAKAMA
WHERE WERE YOU?!
IT WAS RUMORED YOU COMMITTED SUICIDE BY JUMPING INTO KAMIKAKUSHI VALLEY.
800 YEARS...

I WENT 800 YEARS IN THE FUTURE
THERE I LOST USHIWAKAMARU'S MEMORY AND BECAME TOOYAMA RYO.
I MET THE BENKEI WHO CHASED USHIWAKAMARU AND HE BECAME MY...
WAI...WAIT A MINUTE!
OJI-SAN, WHO ARE YOU?!
ON-MYOU ...?
EVEN AN ONMYOUJI SUCH AS I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT...
I AM KIICHI HOUGEN.
ONMYOUJI OF HORIKAWA RIVER
FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, YOU'VE EVEN FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME TEACHING YOU KENJUSTSU AT KURAMA VALLEY.
OJI-SAN, YOU TAUGHT ME KEN-JUSTSU...?
THIS IS GONNA BE TROUBLESOME I DON'T EVEN HAVE ONE BIT OF USHIWAKA'S MEMORY
BUT, I'VE LEARNED THE HISTORY OF THIS ER...

*Kenjustsu = swordplay; swordsmanship


*Hei Shi = Family of Hei
*Gen Ji = Family of Gen
*Dan no Ura = Literally meaning "the shore of backfield"
The great naval battle of Dan no Ura fought in 1185 off the coast of the northern island of Kyushu, was the final climax of a long series of bitter wars of two powerful families in feudal Japan. The Minamoto clan (Genji), under its brilliant military leader Yoshitsune, defeated the Taira (Heishi) once and forever. Read more info here =>
http ://www.artelino.com/articles/naval_battle_dannoura.asp
REALLY?!
RESPONDING TO THE VIOLENCE OF THE HEISHI*, THE GENJI* STOOD UP AGAINST THEM AND SUCCESSFULLY ELIMINATED THE HEISHI THREAT AT THE BATTLE OF DAN NO URA*.
THEN USHIWAKA... THEN, YOSHITSUNE IS PURSED BY HIS BROTHER YORITOMO...
BUT USHIWAKA
AND THEN?
WHAT HAPPENS?!
I'M FEMALE!
THAT'S TRUE.
RIGHT NOW, YOU CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK ONE BIT LIKE A BOY.


I...
..REALLY CAME TO THE HEIAN ERA..
DON'T LET YOUR MOUTH HANG OPEN LIKE THAT YOU'LL BE TAKEN FOR A COUNTRY BUMPKIN.
It's just like a movie set.
WOW—


THIS LITTLE BASTARD DARED TO CRITICIZE KIYOMORI-SAMA.
SHUT UP!!
WAAA... PLEASE FORGIVE US.
OH—
THOSE WHO AREN'T HEISHI, AREN'T HUMAN.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT TAKEN FOR A COUNTRY BUMPKIN, HERE, AS IN ROKUHARA, IT WOULD NOT DO TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.
IT'S ANOTHER TITLE FOR TAIRA NO KIYOMORI*
OR I SHOULD SAY, IT'S THE NAME OF THE PLACE WHERE ALL THE HEISHI RESIDE
WHAT'S ROKUHARA?

*Taira no Kiyomori (1118–81): Head of Taira clan. General of the late Heian period of Japan. He established the first samurai dominated administrative government in the history of Japan.

THEY'RE YOUTHS COMMISSIONED BY TAIRA NO KIYOMORI TO POLICE THE STREETS OF THE CITY AND PUNISH THOSE WHO CRITICIZE THE HEISHI.
THE KAMURO?
WHO ARE THEY? THE ONES WITH GIRLY HAIRDOS.
WHAT—!
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE A BUNCH OF CHEATERS*!
PLEASE! I BEG YOU! IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE MY CHILD, TAKE ME, TOO—
LET GO, YOU HAG!!
SUCH A SMALL CHILD. WHY AREN'T ANY ADULTS HELPING?!
ANYBODY WHO HELPS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN AWAY. WHO WOULD BE SO DUMB—
STOP!
Rumble Rumble
WHY ARE YOU BULLYING A SMALL CHILD?!
UWAA, USHIWAKA?!
That idiot.
WHAT?!
HE HAS SUCH WEIRD HAIR.

*Cheaters … basically a slang term for people who perform certain tasks in secret without attracting much public attention. Kind of like the FBI's better-known counterpart, the CIA.

WEIRD HAIR?!
WHOSE HAIR IS WEIRD?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING. WEARING THOSE RIDICULOUS RED COSTUMES WITH THOSE GIRLY BOBBED HAIRCUTS.
UGLY
WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING AT?!
Frozen
Haha haha
Pff
GOING AGAINST THE KAMURO IS GOING AGAINST THE HEISHI.
YOU'RE COMING WITH US TO ROKUHARA!!
YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND CHANGE YOUR HAIRSTYLE FIRST!!
You look like an idiot!
IT'LL BE BAD IF USHIWAKA IS TAKEN BY THE KAMURO AT SUCH A TIME..!!
STOP.. USHIWAKA...

ドドド

BENKEI?
USHI-WAKA!!
KYAAA
BENKEI!!
BOM
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? LET ME GOOO!
PLEASE DON'T MOVE.
RYO-DONO.
HE'S EVEN SCARIER THAN THE HEISHI...
HEARD HE JUST CAME BACK TO THE CITY AND NOW HE'S CARRIED OFF THAT BOY.
IS THAT BENKEI?

THANK GOOD-NESS!
I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND YOU
I THINK THIS IS FAR ENOUGH FROM THE CITY
MY OLDER MARRIED SISTER LIVES HERE AND—
I...
RYO-DONO?
SQUEEZE
PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ANYMORE
NO MATTER WHERE RYO-DONO IS, BENKEI WILL FIND HER
BENKEI..

SO BENKEI HAS AN OLDER SISTER.
I THINK SHE'S AWAY. NO ONE'S HOME.
AH...
RYO-DONO, I HAVE A REQUEST.
Swish
BENKEI..?!
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, PLEASE, DON'T REBEL AGAINST THE HEISHI OR THE KAMURO.
I... UNDER-STAND.
CAN RYO-DONO PROMISE?
I PROMISE.
SO PLEASE, DON'T BE LIKE THIS ANYMORE...
IF I HADN'T FOUND RYO-DONO...
IS IT REALLY THAT SERIOUS? THE ROKUHARA...

RYO-DONO'S HEAD WOULD NOT BE ON HER NECK RIGHT NOW
RYO-DONO DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND HER CURRENT SITUATION.
IN ROKUHARA, EVERYONE THINKS THAT ISHIWAKA-DONO, THE LOOK-ALIKE OF YOSHITOMO-KOU*, HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE BY JUMPING INTO THE KAMIKAKUSHI'S VALLEY
HOWEVER, IF THEY BECOME AWARE OF RYO-DONO'S WHEREABOUTS, THEY'D DISPATCH ASSASSINS RIGHT AWAY.
SORRY...
NO... I'M SORRY IF I SAID TOO MUCH
RIGHT! WHERE'S AOI?
AND TORAKO-SAN?!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE ARE FROM THIS ERA, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO KNOW US HERE
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH RYO-DONO...
BUT THOSE TWO...

LET'S LOOK FOR THEM TOGETHER TOMORROW.
YEAH...
BAM
RENKEI!!
IS IT THE WOUND ON YOUR SHOULDER?!
IT'S NOTHING ...
LET ME SEE!
IT'S NOTHING ...
BE A GOOD BOY!!

MY FACE WAS NESTLED IN SUCH A WIDE CHEST...?
WHAT A WIDE CHEST
IT'S BLEEDING!!
IT'LL STOP IN A BIT.
EVEN IF YOU'RE BENKEI, THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL HEAL THAT FAST.

YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT OR IT'LL OPEN UP AGAIN.
VLAM
BENKEI!!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK IN THREE YEARS AND NOW YOU COME BACK WITH THAT KIND OF BOY!!
YOU...
KAEDE!!

HOHO
I HEARD YOU RETURNED TO THE CITY SO I CAME BY JUST TO SEE YOU.
DON'T LOOK FOR EXCUSES.
I'M NOW THE MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN
Sorry for getting you.
DON'T BE RUDE.
EVEN WEARING CHILDREN'S CLOTHES, THIS PERSON IS NEITHER A BOY, NOR MY WOMAN!!
BENKEI'S MASTER
I AM
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T REVEAL HER NAME, SHE IS SOMEONE WHO CAN CHANGE THIS WORLD
MASTER?
YES.
Thump
SOMEONE LIKE THE GENJI?
ERR...
OH, BENKEI'S HURT?
YES, I DO...
BUT WHO ARE YOU TO HIM?
DO YOU HAVE ANY CLEAN CLOTH WE CAN USE TO WRAP HIS WOUND?

KAEDE!
50,000?!
BUT YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL ALL THE SAME. JUST IN KYOTO ALONE, HE'S MADE 50,000 WOMEN CRY
WHO KNOWS IF THAT'S TRUE OR NOT?
50,000 WOMEN HAVE TOUCHED BENKEI'S BODY!!
RYO-DONO.. PLEASE.. NOT SO TIGHTLY...
THE TIGHTER THE BETTER!!
Squeeze Squeeze
WAAA
HEY, HEY!
WAIT HERE. I'LL GET SOME CLEAN CLOTH.
IT'S NOT THAT MANY!!
50,000
BUT THERE WERE AT LEAST AS MANY AS IN GION, RIGHT?
BENKEI ONLY DOES BAD THINGS.
THAT IS WHAT KIICHI HOUGEN SAID.
TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S SWORDS, SETTING FIRE TO A TEMPLE..
HOW HATEFUL!!
POUT

SAYING THAT BENKEI IS A PERSON DESPISED IN KYOTO!!
BUT...
I IMMEDIATELY CORRECTED HIM!!
I TOLD HIM YOU WERE GENTLE AND STRONG. MY MOST LOVED PERSON!!
X MOST IMPORTANT PERSON
O MOST LOVED PERSON
Ack
BE...BECAUSE TALKING SMACK ABOUT MY VASSAL IS TALKING SMACK ABOUT ME!!
THANK YOU. I AM VERY LUCKY.

WHEN I GET EXCITED, I SAY WEIRD THINGS...
WE SHOULD SLEEP
HERE, THE PILLOWS ARE MADE OF WOOD
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I WON'T USE A PILLOW.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
OH, BUT THERE IS A GREAT SUBSTITUTE!!
REALLY?!
THIS PILLOW IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE IN RYO-DONO'S HOME.
SLEEP WITH BENKEI?!
Pat
Pat
LAP..?!
BU.. BUT THEN HOW WILL BENKEI SLEEP?
I CAN SLEEP SITTING UP
ISN'T IT BETTER THAN A WOODEN PILLOW?
.....

HOW DOES IT FEEL?
WELL THEN.
Plomp
NOT BAD FOR A PILLOW...
THAT'S GOOD.
Smooth
BUT NO MATTER HOW COMFORTABLE A PILLOW, I CAN'T SLEEP LIKE THIS ~~
...UTA?
Writing on the pearl = Uta

IT'S LIKE HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO TOUCH IT.
IT'S...
IT'S A CURSE.
Fwip
HUH?
BENKEI
WHAT'S UTA?
I KNOW!
IT MUST BE RELATED TO FIGHTING THE HEISHI.
IT'S BEST TO REST WELL. ARE WE NOT TO SEARCH FOR AOI-DONO AND TORAKO EARLY TOMORROW MORNING?
IT LOSES ITS POWER IF SPOKEN OUT LOUD, SO I CAN'T TELL YOU.
Eh~
BUT I CAN'T GO TO SLEEP JUST LIKE THAT!!
YEA~
WHAT'S UTA? TELL ME, BENKEI!!
ガッ

IS THAT AN ORDER?
YES, THAT'S AN ORDER!!
UTA IS...
Excitement
Excitement
THE NAME OF THE WOMAN I ONCE WANTED TO MARRY.

WILL THAT DO?
YOU CAN SLEEP NOW?
WANTED TO MARRY.
IS THAT PERSON...
NO LONGER HERE?

BENKEI.
HE
IS GENTLE
AND STRONG
MOST LOVED
TO PROTECT ME,
HE WOULD RISK
HIS LIFE.
MOST LOVED
PERSON...

Little advertisement: Yes, finally, after almost 10 months since the last release, we have a chapter of Ryo out!
If you can read Japanese and would like to see more releases of that title, please help us!!
Next chapters shouldn't take that long, hopefully, but still, we really need Japanese translators (or Chinese ones with their own books) for this project :p
*You can use the contact page on our site or leave a pm to ink in our channel if interested. ^^*

リヨウ
Ryo
No.9

HMM...
I DON'T THINK I'VE HEARD THAT NAME
UTA?
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT YOU'RE WEARING?
WHERE ARE THE FANCY CLOTHES YOU HAD ON YESTERDAY?
AH...THIS?
WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING, I ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED ON THE SLEEVE AND TORE IT OFF...
Since I was difficult to move around, I ended up tearing off both sleeves.
AND SO WHAT'S WITH THIS PERSON NAMED "UTA"?
What a Hmm
IF YOU DON'T KNOW, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
RYO-DONO, IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO

Translation Janice
Scans & edits Ink
Proofreading ConwayT

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hngotrans net

DON'T BE SO RUDE!
We don't look a lot alike.
BEWARE OF THE PERVERT!
This is an evil monk who would do anything to women and children
—Rokuhara
this one
BENKEI,
I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF YOUR MASK
IT SEEMS WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT STANDS OUT
I GUESS NEITHER OF US IS WELCOME HERE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY YOU'VE DONE, BUT YOUR ARREST NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED EVEN IN A FAR-OFF PLACE LIKE THIS
WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE CAPITAL, WHERE WAS RYO-DONO?
BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO BE ABLE TO LOOK FOR AOI AND TORAKO-SAN?
THAT MAY BE TRUE,
RYO-DONO!!
SHAKE
!!
AROUND KURAMA?
SOME OLD GUY NAMED KICHI HOUGEN HELPED ME OUT WHEN I FAINTED

I'M STARVING
WHERE THE HELL IS THIS?
NO MATTER HOW LONG I WALK, I'M STILL IN THESE MOUNTAINS
I DON'T FEEL ANY HUMAN PRESENCE, EITHER
THAT RYO, LEAVING ME LIKE THIS...
WHERE DID YOU GO?~~~
huhu
huhu
RYO, YOU IDIOT~~~
Siva-y
KICHIJI-SAMA, WE'RE ALMOST AT THE CAPITAL
I SEE, I SEE.
WE DIDN'T ENCOUNTER ANY THIEVES FROM OUSHUHIRA SPRING TO HERE, AND EVERYONE SEEMS WELL...
AREN'T WE LUCKY?
Hmm?

*O-jisan = Old Man; used sometimes in a friendly way.

OCCHAN* KIICHI!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU KIDNAPPER!?
LEAVE RYO-DONO ALONE!!
USHIWAKA SHALL BE PROTECTED BY KIICHI HOUGEN, THE FORMER SERVANT OF YOSHITOMO-KOU!!
A VIOLENT MONK LIKE YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS!!
CLASH
WHAT!?
Tchac

*Tengu = Dog of Heaven denoting God-like creatures

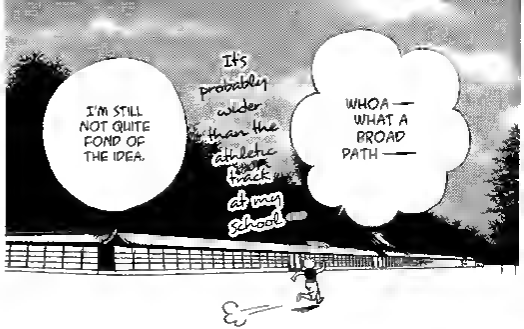
STOP IT RIGHT THERE, BENKEI!!
STALL
NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
UGH...
HIT
FALL
KIICHI OCCHAN IS THE ONE WHO HELPED ME OUT. HE'S MY SAVIOR!!
BUT, RYO-DONO
APOLO-GIZE!!
APOLOGIZE TO HIM RIGHT NOW!!

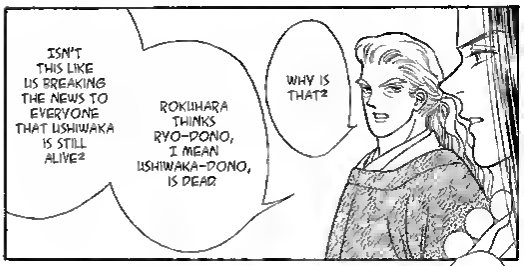
OF COURSE I'D WORRY, NOW THAT I KNOW USHIWAKA IS A WOMAN.
SO YOU THOUGHT I WAS A BOY WHEN YOU WERE TEACHING ME HOW TO USE A SWORD?
SO IT'S TRUE THAT BENKEI HAS BECOME YOUR SERVANT!
THAT'S RIGHT.
OCCHAN, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
...PLEASE EXCUSE MY EARLIER BEHAVIOR.
SHE RE-MARRIED?
WELL, IT'S ALREADY HER THIRD MARRIAGE.
ANYWAY, NO ONE WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN YOUR MOTHER, TOKIWA GOZEN.
SHE IS MARRIED TO FUJIWARA NAGASHIGE, A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
MY MOTHER?
WHAT ELSE WOULD I THINK WHEN YOU WERE IN A TEMPLE WHICH FORBIDS WOMEN FROM ENTERING?
SO OCCHAN DIDN'T KNOW EITHER.

USHIWAKA'S FATHER, MINAMOTO NO YOSHITOMO, LOST TO TAIRA NO KIYOMORI IN THE WAR OF THE HEIJI
FOR YOUR SAKE, YOUR MOTHER THREW AWAY HER DIGNITY
OTHERWISE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY KIYOMORI A LONG TIME AGO.
YOSHITOMO-KOU'S OFFSPRING WERE EITHER SENT AWAY TO TOUGOKU* OR VARIOUS TEMPLES
OH I KNOW ONE OF THEM WAS YORITOMO, RIGHT?
THAT'S CORRECT
TOKIWA GOZEN DECIDED TO OFFER HERSELF TO KIYOMORI IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIVES OF IMAWAKA, OTOWAKA, AND USHIWAKA
SO SHE WAS FORCED TO BECOME KIYOMORI'S CONCUBINE?

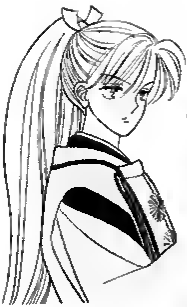
*Touroku = Country of the East.

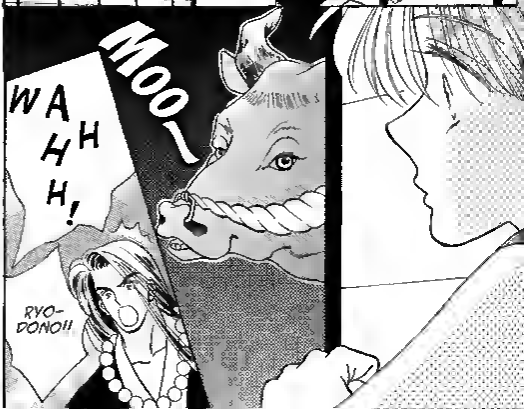
WHAT A POOR PERSON...
MY ACTUAL MOTHER, THAT IS.
WELL, KIYOMORI TOSSED HER AWAY.
YET SHE'S RE-MARRIED AGAIN...
A POOR PERSON!?2
HOW COLD OF YOU,
SHE'S YOUR MOTHER!!
THERE'S NO HELPING IT, SINCE RYO-DONO HAS LOST ALL HER MEMORIES OF THIS ERA...
HMM...
THEN WE MUST LET HER MEET TOKIWA GOZEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO AND SEE MY MOTHER
I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO ASK HER ANYWAY
RYO-DONO 2
BECAUSE MY MOTHER IS...
Ryo! meal time!


WHOA — WHAT A BROAD PATH —
It's probably wider than the athletic field track at my school —
I'M STILL NOT QUITE FOND OF THE IDEA.


WHY IS THAT?
ROKUHARA THINKS RYO-DONO, I MEAN USHIWAKA-DONO, IS DEAD
ISN'T THIS LIKE US BREAKING THE NEWS TO EVERYONE THAT USHIWAKA IS STILL ALIVE?

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T TELL OTHERS THAT SHE'S USHIWAKA, NOBODY WILL NOTICE
IS MY MOTHER'S HOME THAT WAY—?




MOO—
WAHHH!
RYO-DONO!!

AWAWA!
ISN'T THAT JUST A CHILD?
DON'T BE SO HARSH
WHAT IS THIS? JUMPING OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, RYO-DONO?
OR W, IS IT DONE ON PURPOSE, KNOWING THAT TAIRA NO KOREMORI-SAMA IS HERE!?
DON'T HOLD YOUR HEAD TOO HIGH! NOW MOVE!
HEISHI!!
KOREMORI-SAMA...
KO-

ARE YOU HURT,
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PERSON...
BOY?

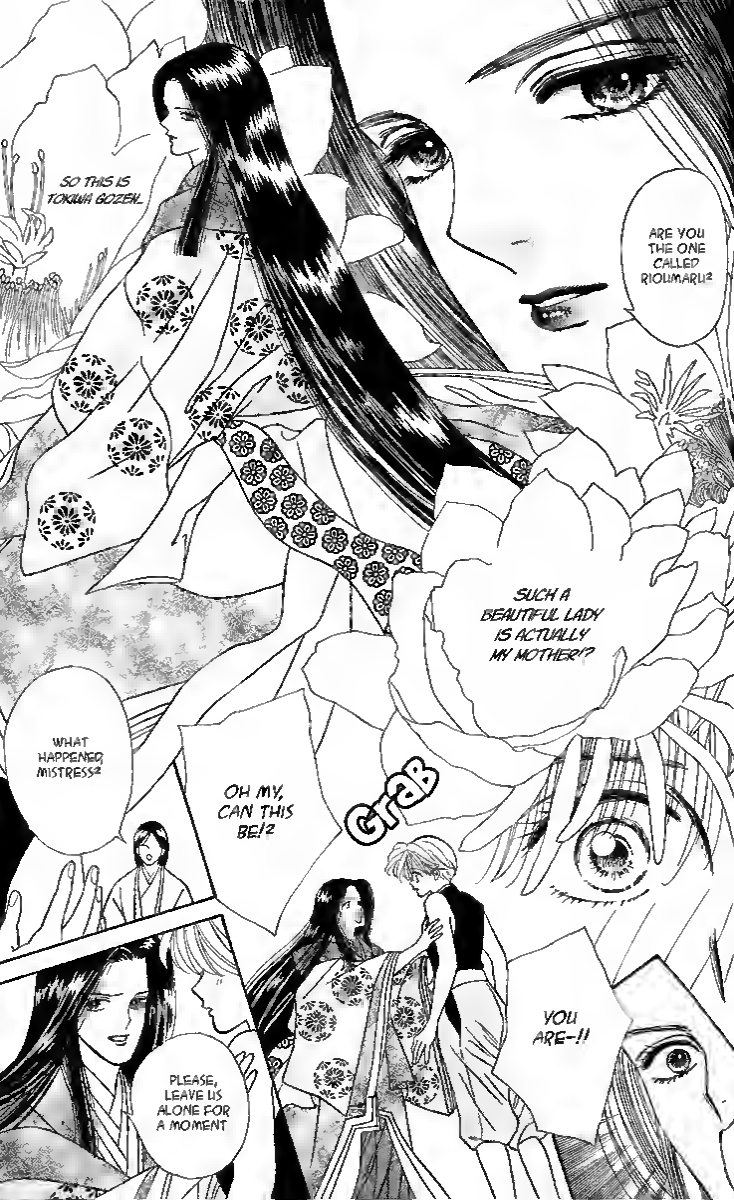
"BOY"?
KOREMORI-SAMA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP A LOW-CLASS CITIZEN LIKE THAT!
P-PLEASE EXCUSE ME THEN
I'M A WOMAN.
ORDINARY CITIZENS OR THE ROYAL FAMILY,
AREN'T WE ALL HUMANS?
USE THIS
IT'S VERY EFFECTIVE AGAINST LIGHT INJURIES
PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF THE TRAFFIC FROM NOW ON
V-YES,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

OCCHAN, YOU KNOW THAT PERSON!?
SO THAT'S KOREMORI...
HE'S KIYOMORI'S GRANDSON, TAIRA NO KOREMORI
BASICALLY THE SUCCESSOR OF THE HEISHI.
HMM,
WASN'T HE A NICE GUY?
HE'S NOT STUCK-UP AT ALL, AND HE EVEN GAVE ME THIS MEDICINE
WHY? HE WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO-
CRASH
ACK!
Grab
!!
RYO-DONO, PLEASE THROW THAT THING AWAY IMMEDIATELY

TO BE TREATED BY THE HEISHI IN SUCH A WAY, AS IF YOU'RE BELOW THEM...
RYO-DONO, YOU'RE THE SUCCESSOR OF THE GENJI!
SO MEAN!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT!?
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF SHAME ABOUT THAT?
...NOT REALLY
I DON'T HATE THE HEISHI,
AND UNLIKE BENKEI, I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT AVENGING THE GENJI AT ALL!!
EVEN IF I'M THE DESCENDANT OF GENJI, I'M STILL MYSELF!!

RYO-DONO...
BENKEI MUST HAVE HAD A LOVER NAMED UTA WHO WAS KILLED BY THE HEISHI.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM HATE THE HEISHI SO MUCH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SEEMS LIKE BENKEI WANTS TO MAKE ME SUCCEED THE GENJI,
BUT I'M NOT AT ALL INTERESTED, Y'KNOW!!
.....
WHAT A DIFFERENCE...
USHIWAKA BACK THEN WAS
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THIS CHILD NAMED RYO.

FUJIWARA NO NAGASHIGE PALACE
RIOUMARU?
YES, IT SEEMS HE IS A MESSENGER FROM KURAMA TEMPLE
HE IS ASKING TO MEET WITH THE MISTRESS
RIOUMARU OF KURAMA, 2
RIOUMARU, THIS WAY
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
IN FRONT OF EVERYONE EXCEPT YOUR MOTHER, YOU MUST BEHAVE AS THOUGH YOU ARE NOT USHIWAKA
I GOT IT
Thump Thump
I HAVE BROUGHT THE MESSENGER
Thump Thump


SO THIS IS TOKUJI GOZEN.
ARE YOU THE ONE CALLED RIOUMARU?
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LADY IS ACTUALLY MY MOTHER!?
GRAB
WHAT HAPPENED, MISTRESS?
OH MY, CAN THIS BE!?
YOU ARE-!!
PLEASE, LEAVE US ALONE FOR A MOMENT

YES-
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS...
EH..?
.....
YOU'RE USHIWAKA, CORRECT!?
AM I DREAMING OR NOT!?
YOU'RE TRULY ALIVE!?
YOU ARE ALIVE
MY, SO AMAZING...
SO YOU SEE,
I WAS WONDERING WHY EVERYONE THINKS I'M A BOY WHEN I'M NOT...
I CAME HERE TO SEE IF I CAN FIND OUT WHY.
THOUGH I'M STILL A LITTLE CONFUSED, I'M HAPPY THAT YOU HAD THREE PEACEFUL YEARS.

MOTHER
?
EVERYONE IN THIS TIME ASSUMES USHIWAKA IS A BOY, AND THAT IS WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY BOOKS
BUT IN REALITY I'M A GIRL, RIGHT?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, USHIWAKA.
YOUR FALSE IDENTITY WAS A LIE TOLD TO KIYOMORI, WHO WANTED TO USE YOU AS A TOOL
A LIE...!?
AFTER THE DEFEAT OF YOSHITOMO-DONO,
I WAS BROUGHT TO KIYOMORI

YOU'LL SPARE THE LIVES OF THESE THREE CHILDREN, RIGHT?
IF I BECOME YOURS—
HOWEVER, IF THOSE CHILDREN OF YOURS ARE BOYS, THEY MUST BECOME MONKS AND LIVE AT THEIR RESPECTIVE TEMPLES.
RIGHT.
I'LL MARRY THEM TO MY GRAND-SONS!!
HMMPH, IF THEY'RE GIRLS...
WHAT IF THEY'RE GIRLS?
ISN'T THAT A WISE IDEA?
EVERY MEMBER OF THE GENJI, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM, WOULD BE ABSORBED INTO THE HEISHI!!
THE GENJI AND THE HEISHI COULD FINALLY BE MERGED
!!

THAT BABY IN YOUR ARMS, ISN'T SHE A GIRL?
FOR MY DEAD HUSBAND'S SAKE, I SIMPLY COULD NOT ALLOW SUCH A THING THEREFORE...
NO, IT'S A BOY!!
ALL MY CHILDREN ARE BOYS!!
I SEE... NOW ISN'T THAT UNFORTUNATE.
IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE!
I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING, AND WE DECIDED TO RAISE YOU AS A BOY
YOU WERE SENT TO AJIYARI-SAMA, THE HEAD MONK AT KURAMA TEMPLE.
HOWEVER, KIYOMORI STILL SUSPECTED YOU WERE A GIRL..

THAT IS WHY, USHIWAKA.. IF YOU DON'T LIVE AS A MAN,
KOREMORI..
YOU'LL SURELY END UP MARRIED TO KOREMORI.
THE SUCCESSOR OF THE HEISHI!?
I ACCIDENTALLY HEARD HIM TALKING ABOUT IT ONE TIME
HE WAS TELLING YOUNG KOREMORI ABOUT YOU
WHEN YOU GROW UP I'LL BRING USHIWAKA OF THE GENJI HERE TO BE YOUR BRIDE
YES.
A GIRL FROM THE GENJI AS MY BRIDE?
IF SHE LOOKS ANYTHING LIKE TOKIWA, SHE'LL DEFINITELY BECOME A FINE WOMAN.

リョウ
Ryo
No.10

THAT CHILD IS USHIWAKA-SAMA!?
THAT IS WHAT THE MISTRESS CALLED HIM.
BUT I THOUGHT HE COMMITTED SUICIDE THREE YEARS AGO...
I'M TELLING YOU HE'S ALIVE!!
MARRIAGE...
THREE YEARS AGO, YOU FOUND OUT YOU WERE A GIRL.
AFTER AJARI-SAMA* TOLD YOU ABOUT THE ARRANGED MARRIAGE BETWEEN YOU AND KOREMORI,
YOU ESCAPED FROM THE TEMPLE, AND THREW YOURSELF DOWN THE KAMIKAKUSHI VALLEY.
MARRIAGE!?

*Transcribed as "Ajari" in previous chapter

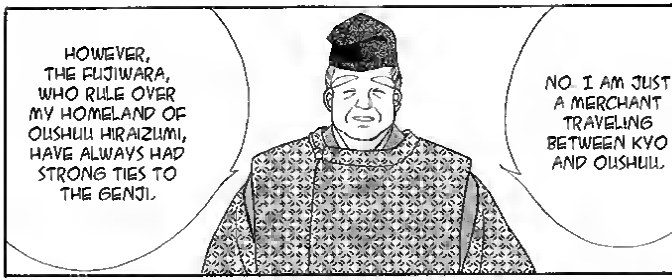
I—
OH NO..
I JUST MET HIM—THAT KOREMORI PERSON.
I WAS ALMOST RUN OVER BY HIS CARRIAGE.
HE MISTOOK ME FOR A BOY, SO I—
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
YOU TOLD HIM YOU WERE A GIRL!?
YES.
BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M USHIWAKA.
USHI-WAKA!!
YOU MUST LEAVE THE CITY AT ONCE!!
AND YOU MUST NEVER RETURN!!

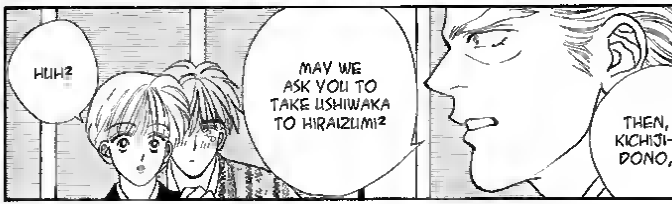
"YOU MUST NEVER RETURN!"
NO...
I DON'T WANT TO, MOTHER!
USHI-WAKA..
I CAN'T BEAR NEVER TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!
I, TOO, DO NOT WISH TO BELIEVE THIS IS OUR FINAL PARTING.
IF WE ARE BOTH ALIVE, WE SHALL MEET AGAIN...
YOU MUST LIVE.
MOTHER..

FORCE RYO-DONO TO MARRY KOREMORI!?
THAT KIYOMORI REALLY KNOWS HOW TO PLAY THE GAME!!
YES. FIVE YEARS AGO, KIYOMORI MARRIED HIS DAUGHTER INTO THE IMPERIAL FAMILY...
AND NOW HE IS AFTER THE GENJI AS WELL!!
I DON'T WANT TO!
I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED!!
GRAB
OF COURSE!
THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE HANDING RYO-DONO OVER TO THE HEISHI!!

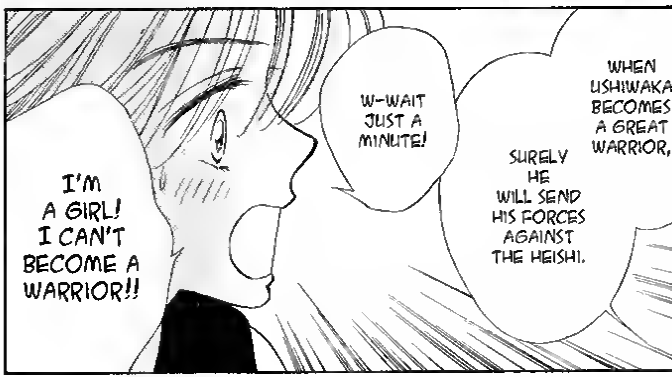
HURRY UP AND GET MOVING! IT WILL BE EVENING BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!!
WE'VE BEEN TOLD TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, BUT WE HAVE NO PLACE TO GO
THAT SPIKY HAIR...
IT CAN'T BE
AOI!?
.....
RYO?

Waa
aah
I MISSED YOU!
I WAS SO LONELY, I THOUGHT I'D DIE!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DRESSED LIKE THAT?
Flip
Glad
RYO!!
KICHIJI-SAN!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THIS IS USHIWAKA!!
THE USHIWAKA I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT!!
YOU ARE THE YOUNG LORD OF THE GENJI!?
WHEN I FOUND THIS STRANGELY DRESSED CHILD,
HE WAS RANTING ABOUT HOW HE'D COME WITH THE HEIR OF THE GENJI.
How long are you going to cry like that?
Sob Sob
But, but
I DIDN'T THINK USHIWAKA-SAMA WAS STILL ALIVE.
KICHIJI-DONO, DO YOU HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE GENJI?


HOWEVER, THE FUJIWARA, WHO RULE OVER MY HOMELAND OF OUSHUU HIRAIZUMI, HAVE ALWAYS HAD STRONG TIES TO THE GENJI.
NO. I AM JUST A MERCHANT TRAVELING BETWEEN KYO AND OUSHUU.


HUH?
MAY WE ASK YOU TO TAKE USHIWAKA TO HIRAIZUMI?
THEN, KICHIJI-DONO,

I AM SURE LORD FUJIWARA HIDEHIRA WILL WELCOME HIM THERE
I WOULD BE GLAD TO.


I'M A GIRL! I CAN'T BECOME A WARRIOR!!
W-WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
SURELY HE WILL SEND HIS FORCES AGAINST THE HEISHI.
WHEN USHIWAKA BECOMES A GREAT WARRIOR,

IF THE HEISHI FIND OUT ABOUT HER,
WE DISCLOSE THIS INFORMATION ONLY TO YOU, KICHIJI-DONO.
USHIWAKA IS A GIRL.
W-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
WHAT!?
SHE WILL BE FORCED TO MARRY KIYOMORI'S HEIR.
I'LL GET MY BUSINESS DONE AS SOON AS I CAN, AND THEN ESCORT USHIWAKA-SAMA TO HIRAIZUMI.
KICHIJI-DONO,
PLEASE KEEP THE SECRET ABOUT USHIWAKA BEING A GIRL...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THE MOST URGENT MATTER IS TO LEAVE KYO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.
IS THAT TRUE, RYO!?
I GUESS...
BUT THAT WASN'T IN THE HISTORY BOOKS!!

I HAVE TO STAY INSIDE FOR A WHOLE WEEK UNTIL WE CAN LEAVE? I'M GOING TO DIE OF BOREDOM!~
Don't sit over this way while I'm sharpening my sword. You could get hurt.
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT?
Roll
Roll
WELL, KNOWING RYO...
SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING, "I WANT TO LOOK AROUND THE CITY OF KYO IN THE HEIAN ERA!"
BINGO
DO YOU REALIZE IF YOU ARE CAUGHT BY THE HEISHI AND MARRIED OFF TO KOREMORI, YOU ARE DONE FOR!?
I KNOW, I KNOW.
I was kidding, Geez.
BY THE WAY, BENKEI,
ABOUT TORAKO-SAN—
THIS...
IS TORAKO-SAN'S BAG!

WHERE!?
KICHIJI-SAN TOLD ME HE FOUND IT ON THE WAY TO KYOTO.
IN THE WOODS WHERE HE FOUND ME.
Riiii
BENKEI!?
AOI-DONO, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF RYO-DONO!
R-RIGHT...
I AM GOING TO LOOK FOR TORAKO!
I WILL BE BACK BEFORE OUR DEPARTURE FOR OUSHUU. WHILE I'M GONE, DO NOT GO OUTSIDE!
I HOPE TORAKO-SAN IS OKAY.
BENKEI ...

HUH?
WELL, THEY SAY IT'S DANGEROUS IN THE WOODS BECAUSE OF WOLVES AND BANDITS.
KICHIJI-SAN TOLD ME IT'S UNBELIEVABLE THAT I DIDN'T COME ACROSS ANY WHILE I WAS WANDERING AROUND THERE.
RYO?
.....
OH NO...
IF SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO TORAKO-SAN—
IT'S MY FAULT...
I'M SURE BENKEI WILL SAVE TORAKO-SAN.
THUD
THUD
FOR NOW, JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF INSTEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE
KICHIJI-SAMA, IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
THE HEISHI ARE HERE!

Crowd
Crowd
WHERE IS KIICHI HOUGEN?
YOU WILL REGRET IT IF YOU HIDE HIM!!
WHY ARE THEY LOOKING FOR KIICHI-OCCHAN!?
YOU MUST NOT GO OUTSIDE, USHIWAKA-SAMA.
I AM KIICHI HOUGEN. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU ARE DISTURBING EVERYONE BY COMING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!!
BY ORDER OF TAIRA NO KOREMORI, WE HAVE COME TO FETCH USHIWAKA, THE CHILD OF MINAMOTO NO YOSHITOMO.
WE DEMAND YOU HAND OVER USHIWAKA IMMEDIATELY.
!!

*The surname of Heishi can also be referred to as Taira.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
USHIWAKA COMMITTED SUICIDE THREE YEARS AGO. HOW COULD HE BE HERE?
HE STILL LIVES.
TODAY, USHIWAKA OF THE GENJI VISITED THE NAGASHIGEKYO VILLA.
HE WAS SEEN WITH BENKEI AND KIICHI HOUGEN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
I NEVER WENT TO SUCH A VILLA, NOR DO I KNOW USHIWAKA!!
WHACK
YOU LIE!!
STOP!!

DART
STOP IT!
I AM RIGHT HERE!!
RYO! O...
!
KIICHI HOUGEN...
RAISE
YOU WERE LYING!
OCCHAN, ARE YOU OKAY!?
WHY DID YOU COME OUT HERE?
YOU ARE USHI-WAKA?
WH-WHY ARE YOU GLARING AT ME?
HURRY AND COME OVER HERE!!

H-HOLD ON
USHIWAKA MUST BE FORMALLY ATTIRED BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO LORD KOREMORI.
PLEASE GIVE US TIME...
HM.. ALL RIGHT, BUT HURRY UP
IF YOU PERMIT USHIWAKA TO ESCAPE, YOU WILL ALL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED!
Hurry
Hurry
KICHIJI-DONO, WHERE IS THE BACK DOOR IN THIS HOUSE?
WHAT? ARE YOU PLANNING TO ESCAPE?
I'M GOING TO SEE KOREMORI.
THAT'S NONSENSE, USHIWAKA!!
KICHIJI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY CLOTH I CAN USE TO WRAP MY CHEST?
YES
PLEASE BRING ME AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!!
HAVE YOU GONE MAD!?
YOU MET KOREMORI BEFORE...
FWIP

Turn
AND YOU TOLD HIM YOU WERE A GIRL!!
WHEN HE SEES YOU AS USHIWAKA, IT WILL ALL BE OVER!!
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO DRESS AS A GUY.
Here is the cloth
THE HEISHI WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING YOU SAY!!
I KNOW KOREMORI WILL UNDER-STAND!!
I'LL DRESS AS A GUY AND TELL HIM IN PERSON...
THAT I'M A GUY SO I CAN'T MARRY HIM.
I'LL ALSO ASSURE HIM I HAVE NO INTENTION OF PLOTTING AGAINST HIM.
IT'LL BE OKAY.
HE'LL UNDER-STAND..

RYO!
I FOUND SOMETHING YOU CAN USE!
A KAMOJI, HUH...
X Kamoji = extensions
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FOOL THEM WITH THIS, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM SHE IS A BOY.
Whack
DON'T WORRY, RYO HAS A HARD TIME ACTING LIKE A GIRL ANYWAY...
Sob
MANLY...
CAN I ACT MANLY?
BUT
I HAVE TO DO IT, OR I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE BENKEI AGAIN...

LORD KOREMORI,
WE HAVE BROUGHT USHIWAKA.
IS THIS TRUE!?
USHI-WAKA...!?
DID YOU HEAR THAT? SO USHIWAKA IS ALIVE AFTER ALL.
THUD
THUD
WHERE?
WHERE IS USHIWAKA?
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE USHIWAKA IS ALIVE.
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BELIEVED SINCE CHILDHOOD THAT USHIWAKA IS A GIRL, AND HIS FIANCÉE
THAT'S WHY HE HASN'T CHOSEN A WIFE EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALREADY EIGHTEEN.
WHY IS LORD KOREMORI SO OBSESSED WITH SOMEONE WHO IS NOT EVEN ON OUR SIDE?
WE MUST INFORM LORD KIYOMORI IMMEDIATELY.

SO YOU ARE...
USHIWAKA...

HOW DARE YOU! TALK TO LORD KOREMORI THAT WAY!!
IS THIS HOW YOU TREAT YOUR GUESTS?
!!
YOU'RE THE ONE I SAW EARLIER TODAY!!
Y-
YES!
H-HURRY AND UNTIE THE ROPES.
I'M SORRY.
WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO DO TO MY FUTURE WIFE.
Bum
Bum
CALLING ME YOUR WIFE? IDIOT!

!?
ARE YOU NOT USHIWAKA?
YES, I AM.
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER? WE MET EARLIER TODAY WHEN MY CARRIAGE—
NO!!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU...
AND I AM A MAN.

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
FWIP
BUT...
YOU LOOK IDENTICAL TO THE GIRL I MET—
IF YOU REALLY THINK I'M A WOMAN,
IF YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME...
I CAN UNDRESS RIGHT HERE.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SURE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS?
SLIP
STOP!!

USHIWAKA CANNOT BE A MAN...
NO...
IF I WERE A WOMAN, WERE YOU TRULY PLANNING TO MARRY ME?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
WELL,
HOW CAN YOU WISH TO MARRY A WOMAN BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN MET HER, LET ALONE LEARNED TO LOVE HER?
THAT IS WHAT MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME—
BUT... MY FATHER AND GRAND-FATHERS HAVE ALL DONE SO
THAT IS ALL WRONG!

ONLY WHEN A MAN AND WOMAN LOVE EACH OTHER,
SHOULD THEY MARRY, AM I NOT RIGHT?
I WOULD NEVER EVEN CONSIDER MARRIAGE WITH SOMEONE I DON'T LOVE. NEVER!
LOVE EACH OTHER...?
I HAVE NEVER MET ANYONE WITH AN OPINION LIKE YOURS!
I WISH TO TALK WITH YOU MORE!!
IS THAT ALL YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ABOUT?
THEN, I WILL GO HOME
PL-
PLEASE WAIT!

WHAT..?
Clink
AH...

Translation: Yuwa
Scans & edits: Ink
Proofreading: Conner

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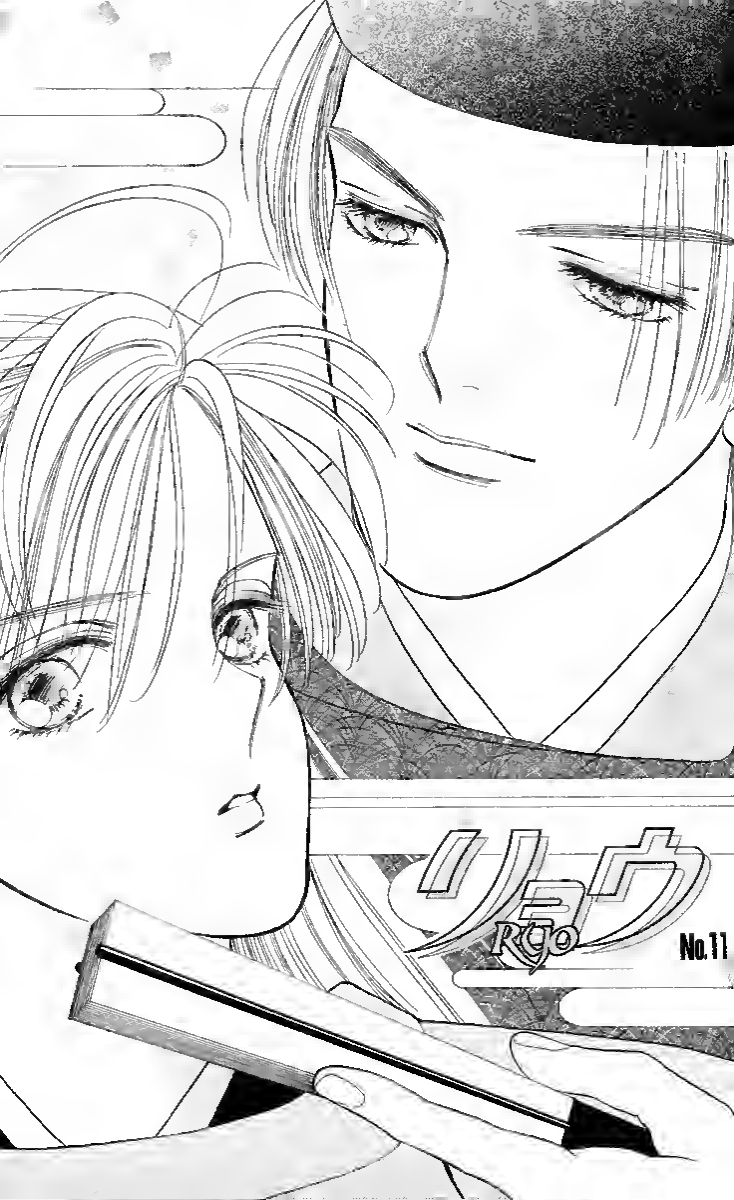
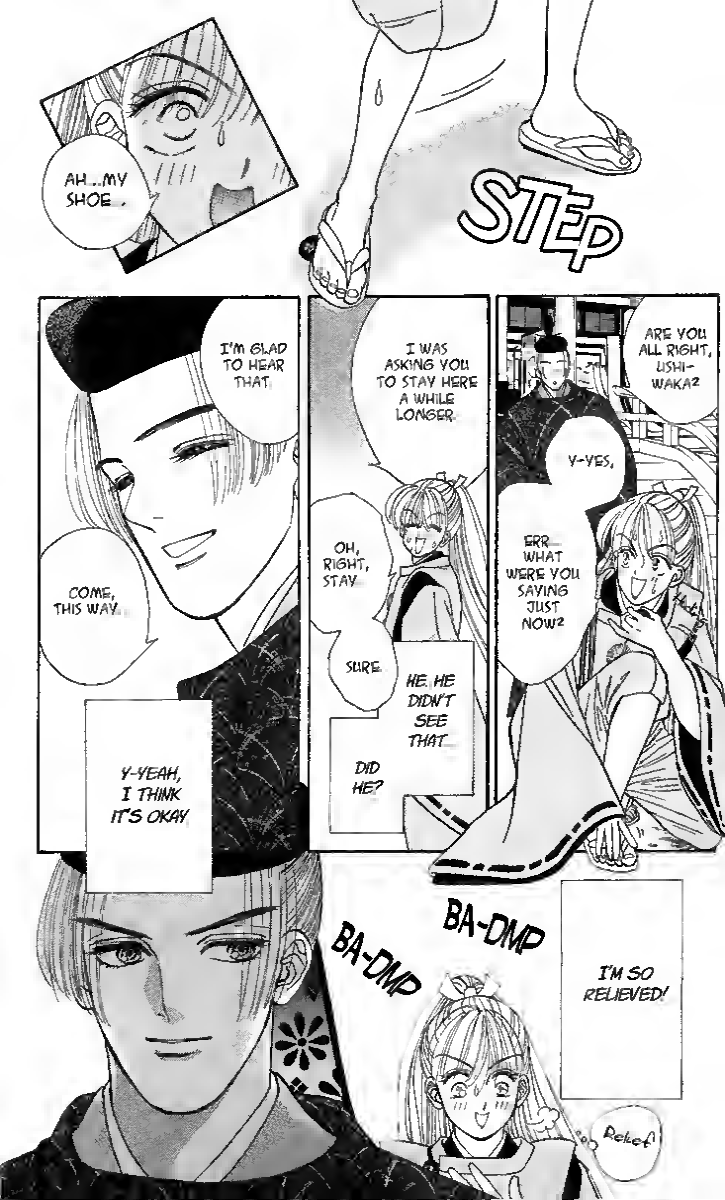
hngotrans.net

Phew, we finally got to release this chapter, thanks to Yuwa's special help. If you're interested in seeing more Ryo chapters, and you can translate from Japanese or Chinese, please help us. We're in BIG need of translators! (That goes for Ryo but also our other projects :P)
Message ink in our chan or send an email to contact@hngotrans.net


リョウ
Ryo
No.11

OH NO!
HE'LL FIND OUT THAT I'M A GIRL!!


AH..MY SHOE..
STEP
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, USHIWAKA?
Y-YES,
ERR... WHAT WERE YOU SAYING JUST NOW?
I WAS ASKING YOU TO STAY HERE A WHILE LONGER.
OH, RIGHT, STAY.
SURE.
HE, HE DIDN'T SEE THAT...
DID HE?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
COME, THIS WAY.
Y-YEAH, I THINK IT'S OKAY.
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
I'M SO RELIEVED!
Relief

THUD
KOREMORI!!
THUD
WHERE IS KOREMORI!?
Y-YES.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
HOWEVER KOREMORI-SAMA ORDERED US TO NOT LET ANYONE IN, THEREFORE EVEN HIS FATHER...
SHIGE-MORI -SAMA.
SHI...SHIGE-MORI-SAMA!!
KOREMORI'S FATHER, TAIRA NO SHIGEMORI...
IF USHIWAKA IS HERE IN ROKUHARA, HE IS LIKE A RABBIT WHO HAS WANDERED INTO A TIGER'S CAVE.
THERE IS NO WAY TO ESCAPE.
HMM...
I HEARD THAT KOREMORI BROUGHT IN THE GENJI'S USHIWAKA.
IS THAT TRUE!?
BUT I STILL DO NOT UNDER-STAND
WHAT THAT SON OF MINE IS THINKING AT ALL!!

LET US DRINK AND TALK THE NIGHT AWAY!
Wham
SO!
UGH
DON'T TALK NONSENSE!
CAN YOU NOT DRINK?
THIS CAN'T BE!! THIS IS SAKE"...
ISN'T IT?
*Sake = Japanese alcohol

CHUCKLE
HMPH!
Morning sake, afternoon sake, and of course sake in the bath are a daily routine.
I ALWAYS DRINK SAKE INSTEAD OF WATER!
SPlurt!
BUT HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE?
UGH GROSSww
SO, LISHI-WAKA,
I STILL DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND

Pulls
THEN YOU AND I ARE THE SAME!
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT!
WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...!?
NO!!
HAVE YOU?
AT LEAST, WE'RE AT DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS!!
YOU PEOPLE DON'T FOLLOW THE STEPS OF MARRIAGE AT ALL!!
YOU ARISTOCRATS ALWAYS
MARRY RIGHT AWAY WHOEVER YOUR PARENTS CHOOSE.
THE STEPS..?
FOR EXAMPLE...
CHUG
CHARMED
WHEN YOU FIRST MEET THE OTHER PERSON,
THINKING, "OH! I LIKE HIM, HE'S MY TYPE!"♡
Type?
IS THE KIND OF THING YOU CALL "LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT,"
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
AND JUST THINKING, "AH, I WONDER WHAT HE IS DOING AT THIS MOMENT?"
MAKES YOUR HEART BEAT FASTER, YOU SEE?

YOU THINK, "I WANT TO GET TO KNOW HIM MORE"
AND TRY HARD TO FIND WHAT YOU HAVE IN COMMON,
AND IF YOU EVER TOUCH THAT PERSON, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF ANYMORE
WELL, ACTUALLY THAT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A ONE-SIDED LOVE.
Y-YOU'RE QUITE KNOWLEDGE-ABLE ON THIS
OF COURSE, I'M CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A ONE-SIDED LOVE.
YOU ARE IN A ONE-SIDED LOVE?
OOPS
N-NEVER MIND ABOUT MY GU... I MEAN,
BLUSH
JUST NEVER MIND!!
Gasp
I shouldn't have said anything
Eek

I MUST WAIT UNTIL DAYBREAK..
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK FOR TORAKO IN THIS DARKNESS..
BENKEI!!
RYO...
RYO GOT...
WHAT IS THE MATTER, AOI-DONO?
RYO GOT TAKEN BY THE HEISHI GUYS...!!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN COOPED UP THAT YOU DON'T GET IT!!
I KNOW!
POint
WHAT?
huc
YOU TAKE BEING TREASURED FOR GRANTED.
YOU'VE GROWN UP TAKING LOVE FOR GRANTED, SO YOU DON'T GET IT.
pissed
THAT'S NOT..
OOPS
slip
ガラン
USHI-WAKA!!
SFX THUD
WHAM
yeow~
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'VE BEEN COOPED UP
THAT'S WHY THE WORD "LOVE" DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU

THEY'RE LETTERS.
THE ARISTOCRATS' DAUGHTERS SEND ME LETTERS EVERYDAY AND I'M SICK OF THEM.
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU LIKE COLLECTING SCROLLS?
OWW.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, ISHIKAWA?
LETTERS FROM THE ARISTOCRATS' DAUGHTERS!?
THESE ARE ALL LOVE LETTERS!?
SO YOU'RE QUITE POPULAR AFTER ALL!!
THEY ARE ALL SORDID WOMEN WHO LUST AFTER MY STATUS AS A HEISHI.
NONE OF THEM HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THERE ARE SO MANY LETTERS,
SO THERE'S BOUND TO BE ONE SOMEWHERE IN HERE FROM A GIRL WHO TRULY LOVES YOU...
I DOUBT THAT.
PISSED
THEN LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING
THE MARRIAGE THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER DECIDED BETWEEN YOU AND ME
IS ALSO NOTHING BUT A POLITICAL MARRIAGE!
BESIDES, EVEN WITHOUT MARRIAGE,
I'D NEVER THOUGHT OF RESTORING THE GENJI,
NOR OF BECOMING A SWORDSMAN, SO TELL YOUR GRANDFATHER HE CAN REST EASY!!
YOU WON'T BECOME A SWORDSMAN!

Ba-dump
WHAT?
UNDER-STAND?
YOU'RE TOO OLD-FASHIONED TO THINK THAT IF A PARENT IS A SWORDSMAN THEN THE CHILD MUST ALSO BECOME A SWORDSMAN,
SO WHAT?
BUT USHIWAKA, YOU'RE THE CHILD OF YOSHITOMO-DONO
GRAB
!!
I DON'T WANT TO BE TIED DOWN BY SOME UNKNOWN FORCE!
IT'S MY LIFE! I'LL LIVE IT HOWEVER I WANT.

HUH?
U... USHI-WAKA
HOW COME THERE ARE 3 OF KOREMORI-?
FAINT
!!
GRAB
SNORE...
USHIWAKA'S FALLEN ASLEEP...?
U... USHIWAKA, WAKE UP!
USHI-WAKA!!
SFX: SA-DAN

SFX: THUD THUD
SHIGEMORI-SAMA!!
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY, SHIGEMORI-SAMA!
WHAT IS IT?
A BUILDING IS ON FIRE!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MY HEART—
MY HEART IS BEATING FASTER...
FIRE!?
SOMEONE HAS SHOT A FLAMING ARROW...!

I'M SURE OF IT
USHIWAKA IS THE GIRL I MET EARLIER
WHAT!?
KOREMORI-SAMA!
THE EAST WING IS ON FIRE!!
FIRE!?
YOU MUST ESCAPE QUICKLY!!
!!
WHOOSH
U... USHIWAKA, WAKE UP!!
Slap
Slap
H...M
THERE'S A FIRE!!

WHO ARE YOU...!?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO RYO-DONO!?
YOU...

SFX: THWACK
THUD
BLINK
BENKEI?
BENKEI!!

I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU WELL.
BENKEI ?
I SHALL DISPOSE OF THIS MAN.

STOP!!
RYO-DONO..
A TRES-PASSER!
HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!!
BUT HE IS A HEISHI!!
KOREMORI-SAMA, THE FIRE IS COMING THIS WAY!
I'VE FOUND A TRESPASSER!
THUD
THUD
Ohh
PLEASE RUN QUICKLY——

AH!
GET HIM!!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
WHY DID YOU STOP ME FROM KILLING KOREMORI?
WHY...
USHIWAKA
DID YOU SET THE BUILDING ON FIRE, BENKEI?
HUH?
SFX: CLOP CLOP CLOP

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BECOME A MURDERER, BENKEI..
BECAUSE..
BUT...
USHIWAKA-SAMA, THIS WAY PLEASE
AMAZING! YOU RESCUED HER ON YOUR OWN, BENKEI!!
WHAM
BENKEI?
KICHIJI-DONO,
THE HEISHI'S MEN WILL SOON ARRIVE
WE WANT TO LEAVE BEFORE THEN
I-I UNDERSTAND
RYO!!
YOU'RE SAFE, USHI-WAKA-SAMA..

I WAS SO CLOSE
TO KILLING KOREMORI
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
EVEN IF YOU KILL A HEISHI NOW, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ANOTHER CHILD
EVEN IF SHE HAS LOST ALL HER MEMORY, AFTER SHE SEES AND HEARS ABOUT EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD,
THAT USHIWAKA WILL SURELY RISE
BESIDES, IT IS A DREAM BEYOND DREAMS TO RAISE AN ARMY WITH USHIWAKA NOW
WAIT FOR THE TIME TO COME
YOUR TASK IS TO PROTECT USHIWAKA.
KICHI-DONO, YOU WON'T COME TO HIRAIZUMI WITH US?
I WILL HIDE OUT IN KURAMA
IN ORDER TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE HEISHI'S MOVES

KICHIJI-SAN PUT IT ON ME SO THAT WE CAN DECEIVE THE ENEMY!
AND I WAS DRESSED LIKE A GIRL FOR A CHANGE, TOO
HEY RENKEI, HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
YOU'RE SO BUSY FLIPPING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN BOY AND GIRL
RENKEI, LOOK, LOOK! ♡
"THAT USHIWAKA WILL SURELY RISE."
I LOOK GOOD, HUH?
IF THERE IS ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, I WILL SEND A MESSENGER RIGHT AWAY
"WAIT FOR THE TIME TO COME."
RYO-DONO, PLEASE HURRY
RENKEI!
THE HEISHI'S MEN WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE

SHIGEMORI-SAMA,
I'M AFRAID I HAVE BAD NEWS.
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME!?
I'm busy looking after the damage from the fire
KOREMORI-SAMA HAS LEFT A LETTER, AND..
WHAT!?
I shall leave on a journey in search of my wife-to-be
THAT IDIOT SON!!
Please forgive my selfish action
SFX: CLOP CLOP
USHIWAKA
I WANT TO KNOW YOU AND LOVE YOU!!
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU!

AND THIS TIME FOR SURE,
I WANT TO MAKE YOU MY WIFE!!

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RYO
No. 12
ARE WE AT HIRAIZUMI YET?
WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR THREE DAYS ALREADY...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE CAN GET TO THE TOUHOKU REGION FROM KYOTO IN THREE DAYS ON FOOT, YOU KNOW!?
TOUHOKU!?
HIRAIZUMI'S IN THE TOUHOKU REGION!?
R-RYO, DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN WE'VE ALREADY COME SO FAR
I-I'M CLUELESS ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE KANTO AREA

RYO-DONO, IF YOU ARE TIRED, THE HORSE IS—
I DON'T WANT TO RIDE IT!!
IF I RIDE THE HORSE, IT'LL MAKE MY BUTT HURT.
C'MON, LET'S TAKE A BREAK~~
AGAIN!? BUT WE JUST TOOK ONE!
I can't walk any more.
SLUMP
WE'RE ON THE RUN!
IF WE DON'T GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM KYOTO, THEN WHO KNOWS WHEN THE HEISHI'S MEN WILL CATCH US!?
BUT I'M NOT USED TO THESE WOODEN SHOES, AND THEY REALLY HURT...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF SITUATION WE'RE IN!?

yay
I KNEW BENKEI WAS NICE!♡
PLEASE GET ON MY BACK.
I KNOW.
I KNOW THAT.
RYO-DONO,
hmm
pissed
EVERYONE'S QUIT THEIR JOBS TO RISK BECOMING ENEMIES OF THE HEISHI
ALL BECAUSE THEY WANT YOU TO GET TO HIRAIZUMI SAFELY!!
STOP ACTING LIKE A BRAT, RYO! YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO SELFISHLY!!
AOI-DONO...
YOU'RE SPOILING RYO TOO MUCH!!
AND BENKEI, YOU, TOO!

LEAVE HER ALONE, RENKEI!!
stomp
stomp
RYO-DONO, PLEASE DON'T GO AHEAD ON YOUR OWN...
stomp
stomp
I'LL WALK!!
FINE, THEN I'LL WALK, OK!?
WELL SORRY!
!!
Ouch
I WANT TO GO HOME...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS MY FAULT
THAT I HAD TO PRETEND TO BE A MAN
OR THAT I COULDN'T STAY IN KYOTO.
AOI IS SO ME/W.
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT.
stomp
stomp
I MEAN SO MAYBE I WAS BEING A BIT SELFISH,

WE HAVEN'T SEEN RYO-DONO AT ALL
I KNEW SHE COULD STILL WALK! SHE WAS JUST BEING LAZY
SHE'S STRONGER THAN I AM!
WHAT!?
THAT BELONGS TO RYO-DONO...!!

IT MUST BE BANDITS!!
BENKEI!
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO RYO-DONO. Iz
WAIT, BENKEI-DONO.
THERE ARE HORSE TRACKS LEADING INTO THE FOREST!
YOSHINAKA KISO-SAMA OF THE GENJI OWNS A PLACE JUST A BIT FARTHER DOWN INTO THE WOODS LET US ASK FOR HIS HELP
THERE IS TOO MUCH OF A DISADVANTAGE IF WE CHALLENGE THE BANDITS BY OURSELVES.
KISO'S..?
clop
clop
YEAH, AND SHE BIT ME THREE TIMES!
SHE PUNCHED ME HARD IN THE FACE WHEN I WAS CAPTURING HER!
THAT GIRL,

YOSHITSUNE-HAN,
YOSHITSUNE-HAN!
-kun
Yoshitsune-kun
HE WILL PROBABLY BE PLEASED
BUT OUR LORD LIKES STRONG-WILLED WOMEN
TORAKO-SAN
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OK.
TORAKO-SAN, YOU WERE OKAY?
NO, I'm NOT OKAY
TORAKO-SAN!?
WE'VE BOTH BEEN KIDNAPPED...
DO YOU KNOW THIS GIRL, TORAKO?
Hush!!
Misa

BUT SHE ISN'T SEXY AT ALL.
SHE DOES SEEM STRONG-WILLED.
YOSHITSUNE-HAN IS YOUR—
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT!?
Noooo!
Wham
I CHOOSE TORAKO, AFTER ALL!!

THAT GIRL IS
YOUR COUSIN, YOSHITSUNE-HAN!!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU BITCH
STOP IT!!
grab
STOP IT,
MISO-GYNIST PIG!!
YOU BEAST!
MY COUSIN...?
YOSHITSUNE-HAN'S FATHER IS YOSHITOMO MINAMOTO.
THAT'S YOUR FATHER'S BROTHER, RIGHT!?
THERE ARE SOME MEN AT THE ENTRANCE WHO CLAIM TO BE ON THE GENJI'S SIDE, AND WISH TO SEE YOU.
Thud Thud
YOSHINAKA-SAMA!

I'M BENKEI'S GIRL-FRIEND
YOU KNOW HIM, TORAKO?
TORAKO!?
BE-
BENKEI!
♡
Hug
Ryo-dono
WHAT!?
BUT THAT WAS IN THE PAST.
How many times have I said this.
RELIEF
OH, THAT'S ALL...
WHY ARE YOU HERE, RYO!?
ARE YOU UNHURT, USHIWAKA-SAMA?
YOSHITSUNE-HAN AND I WERE KIDNAPPED
WAIT
WAIT A MINUTE!!
Get off me.
USHIWAKA-SAMA IS DRESSED AS A GIRL IN ORDER TO AVOID THE HEISHI'S MEN,
WHICH ONE IS MY COUSIN'S REAL NAME?
AND THEY ALL SOUND LIKE BOY'S NAMES
BUT HE IS INDEED A BOY.

THIS MAY BE A COINCIDENCE, BUT I AM SURE THAT OUR GENJI BLOOD BROUGHT US TOGETHER.
HUH..?
WHY DID KICHIJI-SAN LIE TO MY COUSIN ?
I SEE, SO YOU ARE CALLED USHIWAKA
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH DRESSING UP AS A GIRL.
USHI-WAKA,
YOU SAY YOU ARE HEADING TO THE FUJIWARA'S AT HIRAIZUMI
YES.
IF WE GET TO HIRAIZUMI, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE HEISHI'S MEN...
WHAT!?
WHY DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT GOING TO HIRAIZUMI, AND RAISE AN ARMY HERE WITH ME?
HOW ABOUT IT, USHIWAKA?
HEH, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO ALL THE WAY TO HIRAIZUMI YOU'RE PERFECTLY SAFE HERE IN KISO
I HAVE 2,000 MEN IN JUST KISO VALLEY ALONE.
How long are you going to cling to me?
Shishão-sama Kiso's specialty is
Shishão-sama, I'd like to shishkebab tonight.
Shishkebab, coming right up!

trembl trembl
DAMMIT!
TORAKO,
C'MERE AND POUR ME SOME SAKE!!
bleh~
NO WAY
DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU RELY ON OTHERS MORE THAN YOUR OWN COUSIN!?
DISSED!
B-BUT I
ga ha ha ha
OF COURSE, I, THE GREATEST YOSHINAKA WILL BE THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
ISHIWAKA-DONO HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN WAR
WE MUST FIRST KEEP OURSELVES HIDDEN, AWAY FROM THE REACH OF THE HEISHI.
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU CAN'T CALL A COOL GUY LIKE ME A BASTARD!!
ISN'T HE A BASTARD?
TORAKO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHY WON'T YOU BE MINE!?
I'VE TOLD YOU THAT I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT, AND TREAT YOU LIKE A PRINCESS
WE LACK WOMEN IN KISO
ga ha ha
TO THINK THAT SUCH A BARBARIC PERSON IS MY COUSIN
HEAR THIS, RENKEI WHENEVER YOSHINAKA SEES A WOMAN,
HE USES FORCE TO MAKE HER HIS

IT'S THAT ARROGANT ATTITUDE THAT I DON'T LIKE!!
DAMMIT, IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE, I'M GOING TO CHEAT ON YOU!
BE MY GUEST!!
HEY USHIWAKA!!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
YOU HAVE A PRETTY CUTE FACE FOR A BOY.
PUNCH
U-USHI-WAKA
Pant Pant
I-I AM A MAN!
PLUS WE ARE COUSINS.
ALTHOUGH OUR LORD DOESN'T CARE WHETHER HIS PARTNER IS MALE OR FEMALE TO THINK HE'D GO FOR HIS OWN COUSIN
WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME LORD...
YOU WILL BE MINE, USHIWAKA!!
Grab
GAH!! PERVERT!!
PLEASE STOP THIS, YOSHINAKA-DONO
YOU MAY BE HIS COUSIN, BUT I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANYONE
WHO HARASSES MY MASTER!

I-I WAS JUST KIDDING!
WHY WOULD I RAPE A MAN!? YOU IDIOT.
WE ARE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR SAKE, BUT MAY I TAKE HIM TO REST?
USHIWAKA-SAMA IS TIRED FROM HIS LONG TRIP
TAKE HIM WHEREVER!!
Toralla! For me sake, I really do like Toralla the best~~
Th-that was so scary~
.....
I HAVE TO STOP MAKING YOU WORRY ABOUT ME
PLEASE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT IT
YOU SAVED ME AGAIN, BENKEI
WORRYING ABOUT RYO-DONO IS MY JOB
LIKE AOI SAID, I HAVE TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE

HAVE YOU FINISHED CHANGING?
THAT'S A WEIRD JOB.
TH-THAT TICKLES!
THAT YOSHINAKA SURE SEEMED HEAD OVER HEELS FOR TORAKO-SAN,
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, RENKEI? HE'LL NEVER LET GO OF TORAKO-SAN
YES
PLEASE DO NOT MOVE IT
THEN MAY I SEE YOUR FOOT?
IF YOU DO NOT PUT MEDICINE ON IT, IT WILL SWELL AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WALK
MY FOOT?
I WILL HANDLE THINGS WITH TORAKO.
PLEASE GIVE ME THE OTHER FOOT
RYO-DONO...
Flail
Flail
NO, IT TICKLES TOO MUCH!
GWAH!

fwip
YIKES!
slide
THERE, I AM FINISHED
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT
OH, HOW COULD I...
Wham
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BENKEI?
clink clink
roll roll
fwip
fwip

W-WELL...
PLEASE STAY UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP
WAIT, BENKEI!
ALL RIGHT.
ALTHOUGH I CANNOT SING ANY LULLABIES.
IN ORDER TO LIVE HERE, I HAVE TO BE A BOY—
YEAH...
RYO-DONO,
IT MUST BE HARD TO PRETEND TO BE A MAN.
IT'S TIRING, BUT...
03

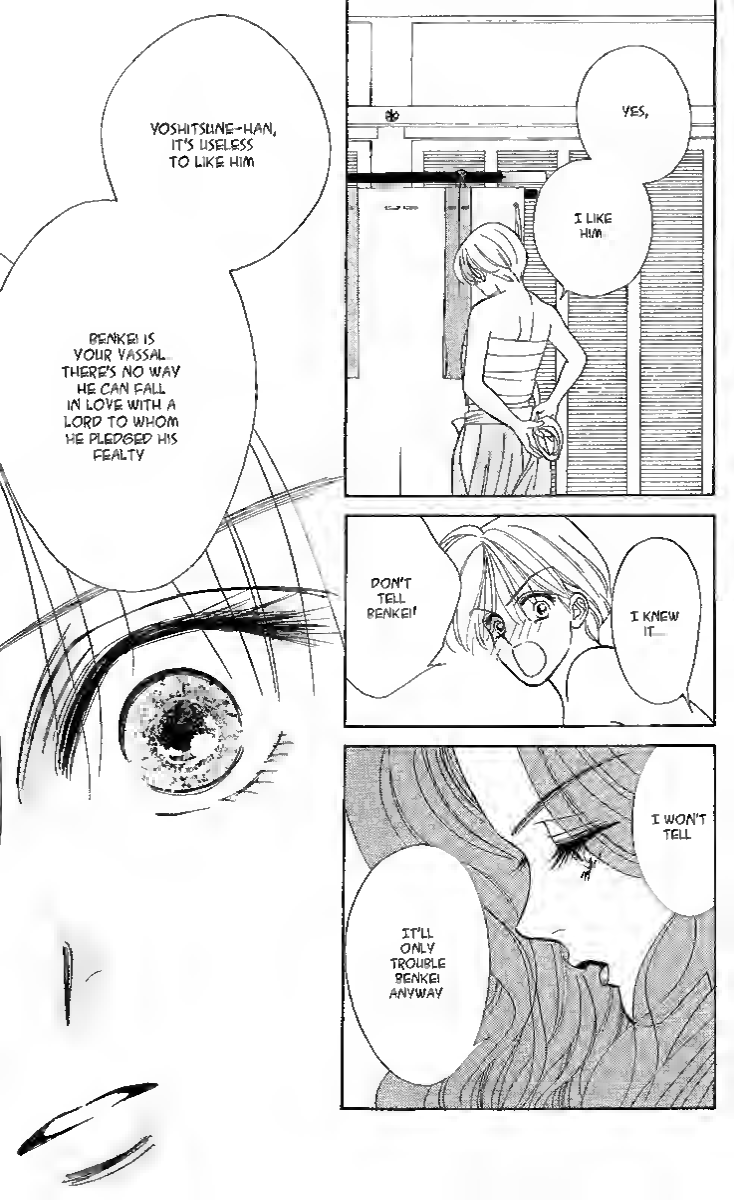
I
RYO-DONO,
I
I'M TOTALLY FINE
BUT I'M FINE
BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD
WHO TREATS ME LIKE A GIRL, YOU STILL DO
.....

BABY-SITTING IS TOUGH
RYO-DONO IS NOT A CHILD
THEN IS SHE A WOMAN ..?
!!
TORAKO...!!
RENKEI, YOU'VE BEEN BY YOSHITSUNE-HAN'S SIDE ALL THIS TIME
I'VE BEEN SO LONELY ALL BY MYSELF...
IT'S HARD TO TOLERATE THAT FOR SO LONG

STOP—
YOU SAID THAT BEFORE, BUT YOU SLEPT WITH ME ANYWAY
STOP IT—
SINCE THE DAY THAT I DECIDED TO BE RYO-DONO'S VASSAL, I'VE CHANGED BOTH IN BODY AND SPIRIT
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU?
LET'S GO TO MY ROOM
PULL AWAY
BENKEI,
YOU TOLD ME,
THAT YOU WILL ONLY LOVE THAT WOMAN NAMED "LITA"
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO LOVE A LIVING WOMAN
BUT,
BECAUSE I CAN'T WIN AGAINST SOMEONE IN YOUR MEMORY...
I ACCEPTED THAT.

I'M SURE UTA IN HEAVEN WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DO THAT, EITHER.
BENKEI...
REALLY...?
BENKEI
YOU CAN'T...
I WILL NEVER
LOVE ANYONE IN THIS WORLD
YOU CAN'T FALL IN LOVE
WITH YOSHI-TSUNE-HAN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?
I'M FLATTENING MY CHEST WITH THIS CLOTH,
AND FAKING A MAN'S BODY
WRAP
WRAP
WHAT A PAIN
IT'S A BIT PAINFUL,
SINCE MY BODY IS BEING SQUEEZED ALL THE TIME.
YOSHITSUNE-HAN,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO NICE IF YOU REALLY WERE A MAN
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT
I WANT TO BE A MAN...
BUT I...
BECAUSE BENKEI WOULDN'T LOVE YOU?
YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT?
YOU LIKE BENKEI


YOSHITSUNE-HAN, IT'S USELESS TO LIKE HIM
BENKEI IS YOUR VASSAL. THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH A LORD TO WHOM HE PLEDGED HIS FEALTY
YES,
I LIKE HIM
DON'T TELL BENKEI!
I KNEW IT...
I WON'T TELL
IT'LL ONLY TROUBLE BENKEI ANYWAY

EVEN IF BENKEI
TORAKO SAN?
DOES FALL IN LOVE WITH YOSHITSUNE-HAN,
HE WILL NEVER SLEEP WITH YOU
HE WILL KILL HIS EMOTIONS FIRST.

SLIDE
WH-
WHAT WAS THAT...
I KNOW...
ALL THAT...
I KNOW IT, BUT...

Translation Yuwa
Scans & edits Ink
Proofreading Centime

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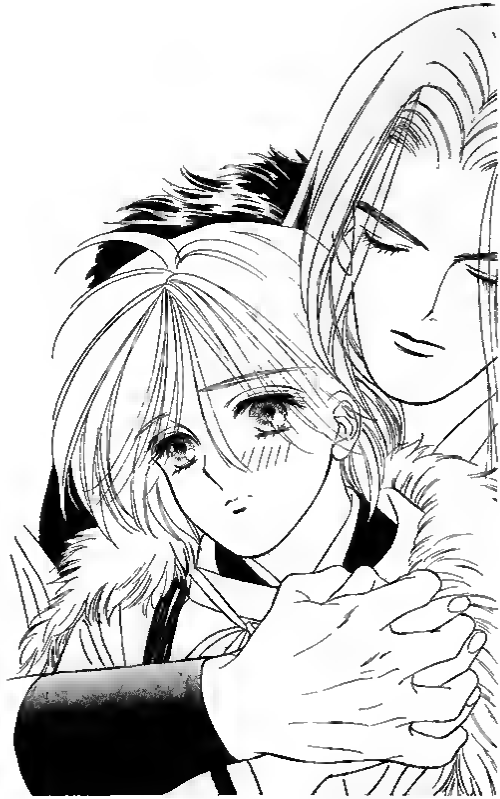

"BENKEI IS YOUR VASSAL,"
"THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH A LORD TO WHOM HE HAS PLEDGED HIS FEALTY!"
ALL THAT YOU'VE REVEALED TO ME,
OR JUST LONELINESS,
WHETHER YOUR WEAKNESS,
DON'T LET YOSHITSUNE-HAN SEE IT.

リョウ
Ryo
No.13

Translation Baboonbutte + help from Yuwa
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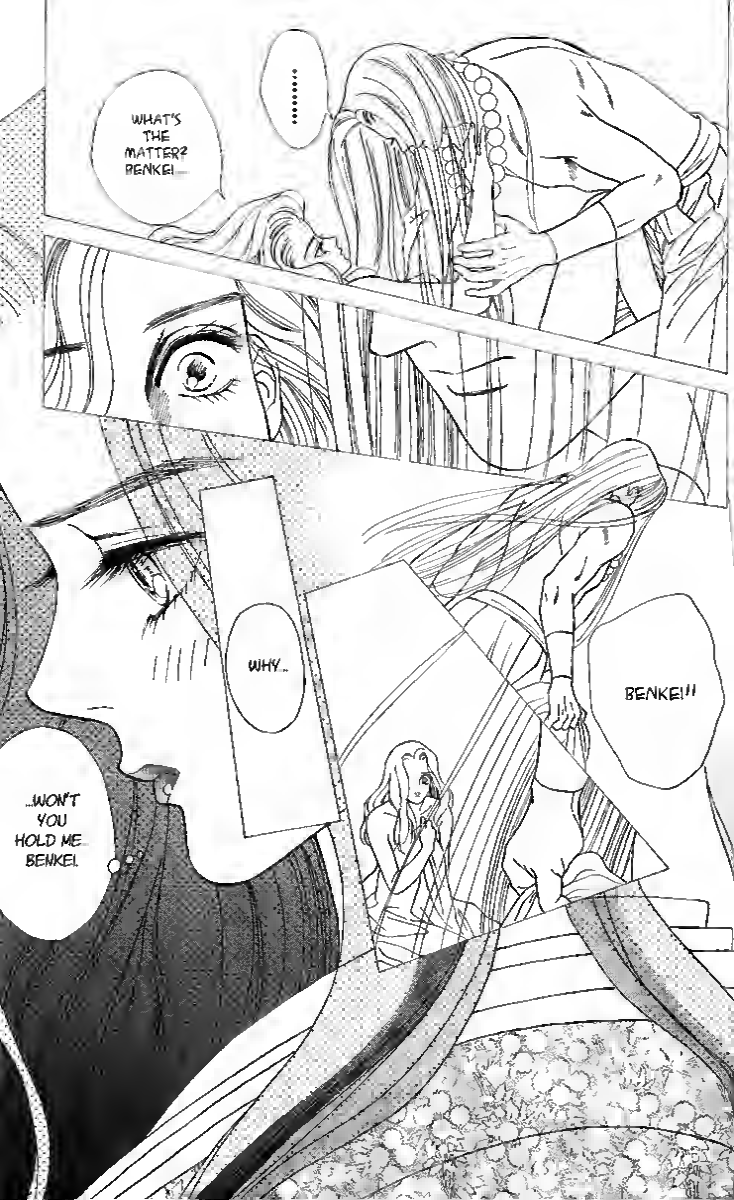

.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER? BENKEI...
WHY..
BENKEI!!!
...WON'T YOU HOLD ME... BENKEI.

WHAT I SAID WAS THE TRUTH!
I didn't do anything wrong!
.....
AN INTRUDER!
HURRY AND CATCH HIM!
rustle
WHO'S THERE!?
!
UH, ?

AN INTRUDER...!?
THEY CAUGHT HIM TO QUESTION HIM,
AND HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.
SU-SUI-CIDE!?
Yik..!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN A SPY FROM HEISHI...
THERE ARE PROBABLY MORE SPIES LIKE HIM, I ALREADY SENT ORDERS TO SEARCH KISO VALLEY
WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE! PLEASE INFORM RYO-DONO!
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT HEISHI'S MEN WOULD HAVE COME THIS FAR ALREADY
I'LL GET THE HORSES READY!
O-OKAY
AOI-DONO!

HEISHI'S MEN?
Step Step
SO WE MUST LEAVE NOW!
TORAKO! DON'T GO ~
TORAKO!!
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
Stomp Stomp
Complain Complain
I WANT TO LEAVE WITH BENKEI!
HOP
I DON'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION
NEVER!
LET'S GO, BENKEI
I FORBID IT!!
BUT RYO-DONO IS NOT HERE YET

GRAB
STAY HERE FOREVER!
TORAKO
AARGH— SO ANNOY-ING!
Let go!
I'll never let go!
Bump
TORAKO! TORAKO!
NEIGHH
Ahhh...!
TORAKO!!

.....
Don't blame others!
IT'S HIS FAULT THAT I TRIPPED!
IT'S ALL YOSHI-NAKA'S FAULT!
Pain me!
.....
Sorry.
WHAT?
SORRY!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
IT WILL TAKE ABOUT 3 MONTHS TO HEAL.
IF APOLOGIZING COULD SOLVE PROBLEMS, THEN THE WORLD WOULDN'T NEED POLICE!
YOSHINAKA-SAMA....

get up
I CAN!
ONE BROKEN LEG IS NOTHING!
pain
pain
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CAN YOU TRAVEL WITH THIS INJURY?
CAN I LEAVE TORAKO TO YOU?
HUH..?
I-I...
I WILL LOOK AFTER TORAKO!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO LOOK AFTER ME!
RENKEI, PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU.
RENKEI...
WE ARE TRYING TO ESCAPE,
IT IS UNWISE TO BRING A PERSON WHO WILL HINDER US.
I WILL WAIT.

WE SHALL WAIT UNTIL TORAKO-SAN'S INJURY IS HEALED
RYO-DONO..!?
WE CANNOT DO SOMETHING SO INCONSIDERATE
LEAVING HER ALONE IN THIS PLACE ..
TORAKO-SAN IS A WOMAN,
LET'S WAIT TILL TORAKO-SAN'S HEALED BEFORE WE LEAVE
PLEASE, BENKEI,
EXACTLY, RYO-DONO'S LIFE—
BUT THE HEISHI'S MEN ARE COMING FOR US AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
I AGREE WITH YOU,

TORAKO-SAN...
EVERYONE IS DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE,
IF THEY BASE THEIR ACTIONS ON YOUR EMOTIONS, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.
AND.
Cho
TO-
TORAKO !!
THERE'S NO NEED
YOU SHOULD GO FIRST.
RO 4
I'LL BE TOO STRESSED OUT IF YOU ALL WAIT FOR ME,
AND THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BETTER.

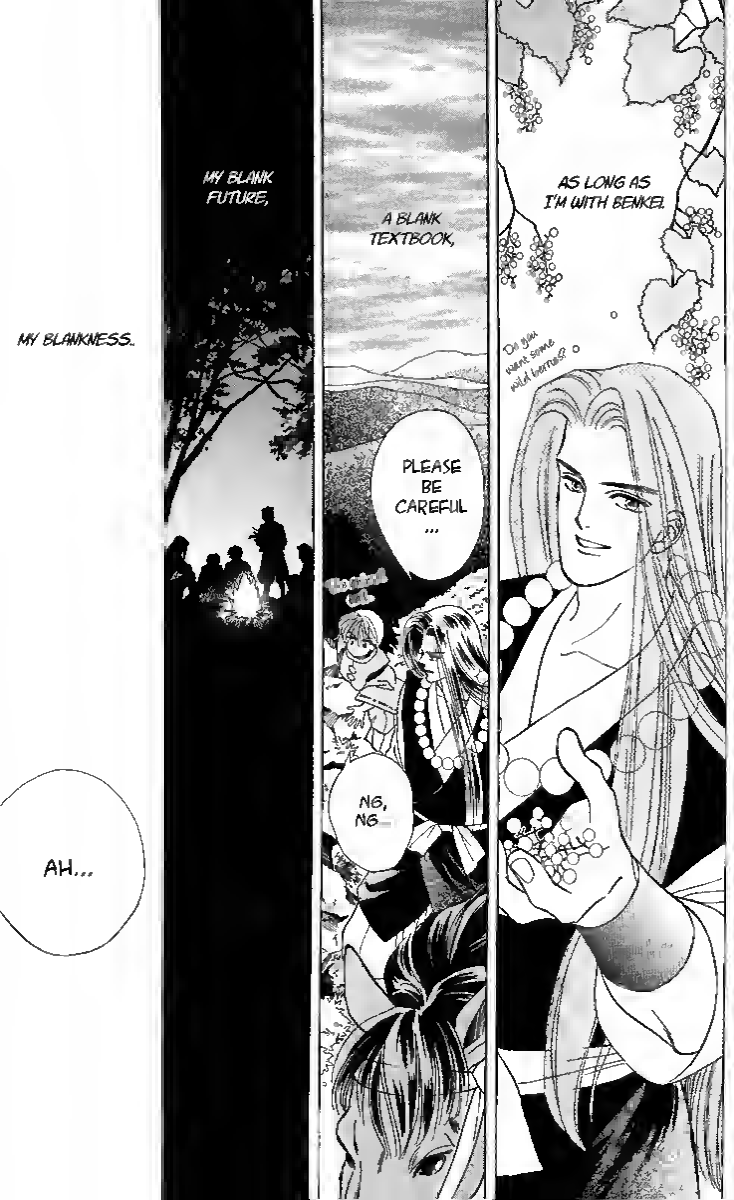
TO-TO-TO-TORAKO, YOU..
YOU'RE WITH USHIWAKA AGAIN?
I'M GOING TOP SLEEP
LET'S GO, RYO-DONO.
TORAKO-SAN
WHEN I'M RECOVERED I WILL COME JOIN YOU,
YOSHI-TSUNE-HAN
IF THERE WERE SUCH THINGS AS GODS THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN INJURED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
H-HEY! YOU WILL BE CURSED, TORAKO!
.....
TORAKO.
I WILL PRAY TO THE GODS FOR YOUR RECOVERY..

YOSHINAKA-DONO WILL DEFINITELY TREAT TORAKO VERY WELL.
BENKEI, CAN THAT PERSON BE TRUSTED?
HE CAN, BECAUSE HE IS RYO-DONO'S COUSIN.
Oh, yeah, he's my cousin.
Although I don't want to believe it.
OH, KICHIJI-SAN.
YESTERDAY, WHY DID YOU TELL MY COUSIN THAT I WAS A BOY?

BECAUSE I FIGURE THAT IT IS BEST IF USHIWAKA-SAMA DOES NOT REVEAL HER FEMALE IDENTITY TO ANYONE.
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE RELATED TO YOU.
AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN WE WILL MEET HEISHI'S MEN, THEREFORE, IT IS SAFER TO MAINTAIN YOUR SECRET.
AND THEN THERE ARE CASES LIKE THE BATTLE OF HOUGEN, WHERE THE FAMILY SPLIT INTO 2 SIDES TO FIGHT EACH OTHER...
THE FAMILY SPLIT INTO 2 SIDES...?
RYO,
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST KNOW ABOUT THE BATTLE OF HOUGEN!
I— OF COURSE I KNOW!
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY...
日本史
AOI, YOU BROUGHT YOUR HISTORY TEXTBOOK?
I WAS THINKING THAT IF ANYTHING CAME UP I COULD USE IT AS A REFERENCE.
YOU ARE USHIWAKA YOSHITSUNE, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST STORE SOME HISTORY IN YOUR HEAD!

FLIP
FLIP
SO THOUGHT-FUL OF YOU!
WAIT A SEC,
HOW COME THERE'S NOTHING ON IT?
HUH?
IT'S ALL BLANK!
NO WAY...
SERIOUS-LY!
THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN AFTER THE BATTLE OF HEIJI.
WELL, YOSHITSUNE BEING FEMALE... IS ALREADY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE LEARNED IN CLASS.
THERE'S NO POINT IN A BLANK BOOK.
TOSS
Hmph
SO, HISTORY WILL CHANGE?
ISN'T THIS EXHAUST-ING?
IF IT GOES LIKE WE LEARNED, THEN YOU DIE AT THE AGE OF 31!
SHUT UP! I WANT TO LIVE TILL 100!
OOOH WAAH~ SO GREEDY!

I WON'T BE LIKE THE YOSHITSUNE THAT WAS TAUGHT IN OUR HISTORY LESSONS
ENDING UP IN MISFORTUNE AND SORROW.
THE BLANK PAGES
OF MY FUTURE.
I FEEL SOMEHOW RELIEVED.


MY BLANK FUTURE,
A BLANK TEXTBOOK,
AS LONG AS I'M WITH BENKEI
Do you want some wild berries?
MY BLANKNESS.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL ...
NG, NG...
AH...

IT'S SNOWING...
NO WONDER IT'S SO COLD..
Shiver Shiver
THIS IS EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE NEAR THE NORTH.
EVERYONE, FROM NOW ON, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO FURTHER WITHOUT GOING ON HORSEBACK.
clomp
clomp
clac
clac
clac
clac
clac
clac
clac
clac
clac
ARE YOU COLD?
NO-
NO-
NO-
NOT AT ALL!
AGHOO

I CAN'T EXPRESS
MY—
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ALWAYS SO CLOSE
JUST BEAR WITH THIS A LITTLE LONGER
Squeeze
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE ELSE
IT IS STILL IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BECOME LOVERS
WHO TREATS ME SO WELL.

ISHIWAKA-SAMA,
THIS IS HIRAIZUMI.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE CAME BACK TO THE CAPITAL...
OF COURSE! THE RICHES FROM THIS AREA ARE THE SOURCE OF THE COMFORTABLE LIFESTYLE OF THE OUSHU LANDS
What! Isn't that the Murgoukaun? It really is identical to the Byoudouin Hououden in Uji Prefecture!
THAT'S RIGHT.
Aa: knows everything
HIRAIZUMI HAS SUCH POWER OF ITS OWN,
THAT NEITHER THE IMPERIAL COURT NOR THE HEISHI COULD LAY A HAND ON THEM.

COME, USHIWAKA-SAMA, WE'RE NEARLY AT THE PALACE WHERE HIDEHIRA-SAMA IS.
HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S DWELLING IS SO LUXURIOUS!
It's good that I fixed my hair before coming!
HIDEHIRA-SAMA,
I BRING FORTH USHIWAKA-SAMA OF THE GENJI.
!!
ON SUCH A TRECHEROUS JOURNEY YOU MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED MANY TROUBLES.

SO, YOU ARE USHIWAKA-DONO?
.....
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG, USHIWAKA-SAMA?
GRAND-PA...
OH?
HOW DARE YOU CALL OUR LORD 'GRANDPA'?
DOES IT MATTER?
TO A CHILD, I AM A GRAND-FATHER
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, USHIKAWA-DONO?

USHIWAKA-DONO?
HIDEHIRA-SAMA LOOKS A LOT LIKE MY GRAND-FATHER..
SO IT FELT LIKE I HAD COME HOME
plop
plop
plop
SO-SORRY.
IS THAT SO?
I SEE, SO I MADE YOU THINK OF YOUR HOMETOWN...
SORRY...
NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE YOUR FEELINGS FROM ME.
I WELCOME YOU, USHIWAKA-DONO.
GRANDPA

EVEN A VASSAL LIKE ME CAN JOIN?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
NOTHING CAN COMPARE TO THIS KIND OF LUXURY!!
BUT OUR LORD SEEMS TO QUITE LIKE THIS ISHIWAKA-DONO.
SECOND SON, YASUHIRA
EVEN AT THIS TIME, SUCH A GRAND WELCOME CELEBRATION...
I THINK IT'S OVER-DOING IT A LITTLE
NEVER THOUGHT SUCH A CRY-BABY WOULD BE GENJI'S HEIR.
HIDEHIRA'S SON, FUJIWARA OF THE KUNIHIRA
THIRD SON, TAMAHIRA
NOW, AREN'T THEY ALIKE?
AH!
AH...
HAS EVERY-BODY ARRIVED?

COULD HE BE RYO'S GRANDPA'S ANCESTOR?
CAN'T BE...
A FLUTE..?
WHAT'S THIS BEAUTIFUL MELODY?
THIS IS THE CURRENT HIGHEST PAID FLUTE PLAYER, NEWLY ARRIVED AT HIRAIZUMI.
THE EXQUISITE PLAYING OF THIS MUSIC SEEMS TO SOOTHE ALL THE PAINS FROM LONG JOURNEY.
EXQUISITE, HUH..
mutter
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS? AOI...
Indulged..
Indeed.
Is clears my spirit.
IT'S PERFORMED PERFECTLY.
OUBAI,
PLEASE COME FORTH TO GREET EVERYONE.
YES.

!!
SORRY FOR DISTURBANCE, I AM OUBAI.
USHIWAKA-SAMA.
IT'S SUCH AN HONOUR TO MEET YOU,